



DISCIPLINES OF THE  
*Holy Spirit*

**SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS**

**25 & 26 MARCH 2023**

**“PRAYER”**

**ROMANS 8.14-17, 8.22-27; LUKE 11.1-4**

**Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time**

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
  - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
  - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group's current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

## Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

2. Read Romans 8.14-17. Verse 16 says: "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God". The IVP New Testament Commentary elaborates on this verse:

*"The Spirit makes us aware that we have indeed been adopted as God's children and that this incredible new intimacy is a reality in our lives. Note that Paul uses pneuma in two ways here for emphasis: the Holy Spirit testifies to our human spirit. Moreover, the actual word for testify means "to testify together with," so there is not a single witness but a double witness: both the Holy Spirit and our own spirit testify to us that we belong to God's family. There is no reason to be uncertain about our salvation. Those who have come to faith need to listen to this double witness."*

-Grant R. Osborne, *Romans*, IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004), 207.

Have you, each individual, the assurance that you yourself are a beloved and adopted child of God? Share in your CG. If anyone in your CG is unsure, consider joining in the prayer at item 5 below.

3. Read Luke 11.1-4, and Matthew 6.7-13. Notice that these two Gospels capture the Lord's Prayer using similar yet variant language.

a) Is one version of the Lord's Prayer more authentic or authoritative than another? Is there some special or magical power in the specific words? Consider Matthew 6.7-8.

b) Jesus offered the Lord's Prayer as a model for his disciples (see Luke 11.1). Refer to the sidebox for the basic elements in this prayer. Discuss in your CG: which of these basic elements do you need to more intentionally incorporate in your individual or group prayer-time?

**Sidebox**  
**Basic Elements of the Lord's Prayer**

- A. The prayer is addressed to our "Father". As this week's sermon reminded us, a crucial foundation for prayer is the reality that we are adopted children of God. (See Q2 & Q5 in this discussion guide). Our heavenly Father desires and delights in us coming to him in prayer. Do we likewise delight to come to him in prayer?
- B. The prayer begins with seeking God's glory, plans, and purposes. As God's adopted children, it is only right and natural that we desire his sacred majesty, his kingly authority, his good and glorious purposes be made manifest. Do we prioritise these above our own needs and wants?
- C. Only after this does the prayer ask for God's grace to meet our common human needs – for daily necessities of life, for forgiveness and reconciliation when we wrong others or have been wronged, for deliverance through testing and trials. These are basic needs shared by us all. Do we take these for granted, or do we actively seek God's provision in these areas?
- D. The prayer is in the plural ("our"/"us", not "my"/"me"). Even as we practise the discipline of individual prayer (see Matthew 6.6), do we also practice the discipline of coming together for corporate prayer? Do we make it a point to set aside enough time to pray for and with one another in our CG meetings?

4. Read Romans 8.26-27. Have there been occasions where you just couldn't find the right words in prayer, or didn't know how to pray? Or have there been times where your emotions – anger, fear, sadness – have been so overwhelming that you found it so terribly difficult to pray? In what ways does this Scripture passage bring you strength or encouragement for such moments?

### **Prayer Items**

5. Assurance that we are God's adopted children. If anyone is unsure or does not have assurance that they are beloved children of God, read aloud John 14.16-17 and Ephesians 1.13-14. Then consider praying the following prayer:

*Sovereign God,*

*Creator of the heavens and the earth:*

*I acknowledge you as ruler over all the universe.*

*Apart from you there is none other, no other gods.*

*You are the one who shaped and formed me,*

*So I turn to you.*

*Lord Jesus Christ,*

*My Saviour, my King, my Master:*

*I acknowledge you as ruler in my heart and in my life.*

*Apart from you there is no salvation.*

*You are the Son of Man, who lived as a perfect human being,*

*You are the Son of God, who bore my sins on the cross and rose from the grave to give me new life, fullness of life.*

*So I turn away from my sins.*

*I turn to follow you,*

*I turn in trust and faith in you.*

*Holy Spirit,*

*Advocate, Intercessor, Enabler:*

*I acknowledge that you abide in each person who trusts in Jesus.*

*Apart from you I have no power to live a life pleasing unto God.*

*You are the deposit and guarantee of my redemption in Christ,*

*You are the one who bears witness to my own human spirit,  
that as I have placed my faith and trust in Jesus,  
I am indeed a beloved adopted child of my heavenly Abba Father  
So I turn to you, holding on to this truth.  
Make this truth come alive in my heart, my mind, my emotions, my soul.  
Gracious God, I praise you for hearing this prayer.  
Amen.*

6. Mutual prayer. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.