

## A CITY ON A HILL WEEK 2 STUDY GUIDE

### INTRODUCTION - DISCIPLINE

God saves people from all walks of life, but He doesn't just save us. He saves us into a body of believers called the Church. God is using His Church to spread the gospel, as we are called to be the salt and light of the world. To live out this calling, we must allow the gospel to change and shape every aspect of our lives.



### Read Matthew 6:1-18.

1. In 6:1, Jesus summarizes the main point of this section of the sermon. Write the warning of 6:1 in your own words:
2. What motivates the actions of the hypocrites in “practicing their righteousness”?
3. What is the difference between the reward the hypocrites receive versus the one promised to the disciples?

What is the reward given by the Father?

4. What frequently repeated phrase does Jesus use in all three illustrations to describe how His disciples should perform their religious acts?
  - a. “in \_\_\_\_\_”
  - b. How many times does it occur? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Why is it important to our understanding of what Jesus is saying?
5. **APPLY:** Where do you most want to be “seen by others” in the way you live your Christian life? Which reward is more attractive to you: the one given by others or the one given by God?

**Now look more closely at Matthew 6:9-15.**

6. Jesus gives a model prayer that is probably familiar to you. Why do you think Jesus devotes more time to the right practice of prayer than He does to giving and fasting?
7. How should we address God in prayer (6:9)? Next to each point below, note why you think Jesus chooses the language He does:

“Our” versus “my”:

“Father” versus “Jesus” or “Holy Spirit”:

“in heaven”:

8. The prayer is broken into two sections. Note the purpose of each:

6:9-10

6:11-13

9. Why is the order of the sections important? How does the first prepare us for the second?

10. **Draw a line** from each phrase to the attribute of God we can learn by praying it:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

gracious

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

merciful

Give us this day our daily bread

holy

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

good

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

sovereign

11. Why does Jesus command that we pray 6:13? Does God lead His people into temptation? Read James 1:13-14 to help with your answer.
12. Look at 6:14-15. Why does Jesus include these comments after the prayer, particularly since 6:12 covers the same idea?
13. What does our willingness to forgive others reveal about how much we understand the forgiveness we’ve received?
14. **APPLY: What does this model prayer reveal about what a disciple should value? Whose agenda drives this prayer?**
15. **What do your prayers reveal about what you value? Whose agenda drives your prayers?**