

## **LIFE Group Leader Handout**

February 10, 2019

Linked Up--*Our Father in Heaven...*

Pastor Michael O'Connor

### **Scripture--Matthew 6:9-13**

*Pray then like this:*

*"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.*

*10 Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,*

*on earth as it is in heaven.*

*11 Give us this day our daily bread,*

*12 and forgive us our debts,*

*as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

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

### **Main Idea--Jesus Teaches Us to Pray to God as Our Father**

How not to pray...

- Like hypocrites
- Like heathen

"Father"

- God is like a good father...(see Psalm 103:11-13)
- God is better than any father on earth...(see Matthew 7:11)

"Our" Father. Jesus was sharing the special relationship of sonship with his followers.

"In heaven" God is imminent (everywhere present) and transcendent (high above anything we can imagine)

"We are all God's children." Only true in the sense that He is our creator. We need to be adopted into God's family by repentance and faith in Christ

Adoption moves us past slavery to sons and daughters to heirs with Christ.

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.* John 1:12-13

### **Application--**

- How did this truth freshen your concept of God as your father?
- To what extent do you daily walk in the truth that God has not only saved you but adopted you into his family?
- If this truth is absent or very small in your life, what are some ways you are bringing this truth into your consciousness?

## **THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN CHOOSING SONGS** **FOR WORSHIP IN YOUR SMALL GROUP**

By Ben Edwards

Music by its very nature is vast and diverse. One of the wonders of the Christian faith is that God meets us where we are. We are all different and unique and yet we can all join together to worship one God. Just remember every small group is different, stay true to the people you are and the purpose God has for you when choosing worship songs.

### **SIMPLICITY**

Don't get me wrong, I love nothing more than going to a gig to hear music performed by a full band of professional musicians. But realistically this is not what small group worship is about. Maybe you have a guitar or a keyboard; perhaps some of you have downloaded instrument apps on your phones. Your small group may prefer acapella worship. The worship style is up to you, but always keep in mind that worship has never been about complexity. Yes, it can be a full choir accompanied by an orchestra but it can also be a single voice and an honest heart.

### **BEAUTY & TRUTH**

A problem I often encounter when leading worship is finding a good balance between beauty and truth. One of the marvels of worship is that it comes in so many different forms. An artist who creates a beautiful sculpture as an act of worship is performing the same act as a poet creating a sonnet for God. Sung worship is somewhere in the middle. Both words and melody have been created for God. The Bible is a great place to start to keep your worship song rooted in truth. Find songs that have beautiful melodies but also have lyrics based on scripture.

### **FOCUS**

No matter when your small group gathers, some of you will always bring stresses and distractions with you. Whether it's disagreements from work that have followed you home, the children's behavior that could have been better or even just traffic that brought out anger you didn't know was there. Whatever it may be we can all lose focus on God. For me, starting a small group session with worship is the best way to refocus on God... wiping the slate clean of the troubles that distract you. Try and remember, that unlike so many things we experience in today's society, worship is not about being a consumer it is about being a participant. We can only truly participate when we are focused.

### **NEW**

Just to be clear, by NEW I don't mean always chase the newest releases. This certainly isn't what the writer of Psalm 96 meant when they wrote: "Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth". For me a NEW song refers to bringing to God the things that matter to you right now in this new day. Play a simple four chord structure and talk to God as a group. Maybe in prayer, maybe in song. For me this is where some of the best worship songs are born, in an honest moment, bringing the day's challenges and triumphs to God.

Every day with God is NEW. New challenges, new blessings, new chances... and what better way to worship than to invite him into every situation, to be alongside you facing and understanding them. What is your song to God today?