**Small Group Study Questions: Mar 24, 2019**

**Living the Larger Christian Life: Prayer**

1. The week before last the discipline of receiving guidance was presented. How have you been active since then in receiving guidance from God? Did you get a chance to do the weekly challenge? If so, what did you discover?
2. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
3. Talk about a time that you clearly received answer to prayer.
4. In the message it was mentioned that prayer is something that is learned. In Luke 11:1 Jesus’ disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray and Jesus’ answer was “The Lord’s Prayer.” Read Luke 11:1-4 and jot down any thoughts you have.
	1. What insights does this give about how we should pray?
5. What else does the Bible say about prayer? How does this affect your perspective of prayer?
6. The pastor pointed out that he believed there is an underlying, almost subconscious, folk belief among many Christians today that prayer doesn’t actually change anything. Do you agree with this observation? Why or why not?
	1. Do you feel you have fallen prey to this belief in some way? Explain.
7. There are many types of prayer, with “simple prayer” being the most common. What are some other types of prayer that can be practiced?
	1. What kinds of prayer do you mostly and sometimes practice?
8. The Bible says that prayer should be a consistent part or our lives (Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17). What role does prayer play in your life?
	1. Are you content with your prayer life now? Why or why not?
	2. What are some practical small steps that you can take to better your prayer life?
9. A few examples were given in the sermon about how spiritual disciplines keep us grounded in God during the storms of life. How have spiritual disciplines played a role, if at all, in helping you weather the storms of life?

**This Week’s Challenge:**

 Often in prayer people get in a rut of simply asking God for things, either for themselves or others, as if God is like some cosmic genie. A more balanced approach to prayer is often more rewarding. A common template that is used to achieve a more balanced prayer is called ACTS. The acronym refers to Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication (asking for things). It outlines a simple order in which we can pray to God.

This week take some time (5 minutes or so) during the best part of your day to practice praying according to the ACTS model. Before you start take a moment to settle your thoughts; feel free to use the practice from last week (Palms up Palms down) to help you do this.