Riverwood **Growth Group**

DISCUSSIONGUIDE

The Secret to Prayer (Teach Us to Pray #1)

*Week of **January 5, 2020***

While this Discussion Guide is intended for use in a Riverwood Growth Group, it can be used personally as well. To get the most from these questions, we suggest you take 10-15 minutes to read, think, and pray through this Guide before participating in your Growth Group. The point of this guide is to not just "get through the questions" (there's no quiz at the end!) but to pursue Jesus and grow spiritually.

ICEBREAKER (Optional)

Share with the group what you did over the holidays.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you find it difficult to pray?
   a. If so, what obstacles seem to get in your way?

   b. If not, why do think that is?

Read Matthew 6:5-8

2. What is the reward to the hypocrites prayer? What is the reward for the secret prayer?

3. Does Jesus suggest we should never pray in public (v. 6)? Explain to the group why or why not.

4. In verse 8, Jesus says God the Father already knows what we need before we ask him. Why then should we still pray?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

5. Do you feel closer to God when you pray? Why or Why not?

6. a. As we embark into 2020 with 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting, what are some ways you want to see God change your prayer life?

   b. Are there any habits in your life that might need to change in order for that happen?

7. If you are choosing to fast as part of the *21 Days of Prayer & Fasting*, share with the group what you are fasting from and how the group can pray for you during your fast.

MEMORY VERSE

"Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." (Matthew 6:9-13)

PRAYER

Close in prayer by first praying for Riverwood to grow closer to Christ through the 21 Days, then for one another to grow in prayer and have strength through your fast, and lastly by reciting the Lord's Prayer together (as written above from Matthew 6:9-13).