

LIFE GROUP LEADERS GUIDE
The Joy of Being God #10 – “The Joy of Prayer”

CONNECT IN with one another

- As it was Guy Fawkes Night over the weekend (remember remember the 5th of November)... How did you celebrate Fireworks Night this year? Are there any traditions your family keep?

CONNECT UP with God

- Phil’s message on Sunday marked a turning point in our series. We started to look at what we can do to make the happy God happy. What was your first reaction to this as Phil opened his sermon?
- Please read Psalm 147:10-11 – What do these verses teach us about God? [*Leaders note: We can please God (“the LORD delighted”), and we can make him unhappy (“his pleasure is not”). And whether we please him or not is decided by how we respond to him and his love.*]
- John Piper, in his ‘The Pleasures of God’ writes: *“The beauty of the gospel is that in one simple command (‘Put your hope in God!’) we hear good news and God gets the glory. That is why God takes pleasure in those who hope in his love – because in this simple act of hope his grace is glorified and sinners are saved.”* How do you respond to this quote and what John Piper is teaching? [*Leaders note: Use this question to give an opportunity to clarify the point that we can please God by trusting in him because it glorifies his character. Our God deserves to be the focus of our hope.*]
- Please read Zephaniah 3:17 – Can you relate to this truth in your own life? Is this how you think of God thinking about you?
- Please read Proverbs 15:8 – This verse tells us that God detests any prayer, any worship song, any act of religious devotion that casts us in the role of giver to God, instead of casting God in the role of giver to us. Consider for a moment this verse represents a spectrum of types of prayer, with the two extremes mentioned above at either end. Where would you plot your prayer life on that spectrum?
- Please read John 14:13 – What does this verse tell us about the purpose of prayer?
- Let’s get practical. What did you feel God was saying to you, personally, about prayer through Phil’s sermon? [*Leaders note: to help your group apply this you can ask the follow range of questions What’s your prayer life like at the minute? What do you want it to be like? How often do you pray? When do you think you could find time for more prayer? What would you like to pray about? Where is the best place you pray? Do you make space in your prayer time for listening to God’s voice? Focus on what is most useful to your Life Group.*]

CONNECT OUT with the people exploring faith around you

- Take this opportunity to pray for those in your life with deep needs. Bring them before God and entrust them to him. Pray for their blessing and that God would bring them to a place of flourishing and love.