

## **Series: Getting out of Airplane Mode.**

### **Scripture and Background Information for July 18-24.**

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week starts our new series: *Getting out of Airplane Mode: The Key to a Connected Life*. Although the disciples saw Jesus doing many miracles, they only asked Jesus to teach them how to do one thing; to pray! In this series, we will look at his model prayer and what that teaches us about prayer and life in general. For that, we will look at **Matthew 6:9-13**.

#### **Background for Matthew 6:9-13 + Luke 11:11-13:**

After Jesus called his disciples to follow him, they traveled through Israel, and He taught them many things about His kingdom. Although they saw many things Jesus did, they did not quite get His way of life. The disciples saw Jesus do mighty things. He healed a dying servant (Lk 7:2-10); he stilled the Sea, cured demoniacs, and did many other miracles (Lk 8). Nevertheless, something impressed the disciples in particular, so that they wanted to learn it from Jesus, prayer! One day, after the disciples saw Jesus pray, they requested him to teach them to pray! Jesus followed their request and gave them the well-known "Lord's Prayer." After Jesus gave the disciples the "Lord's Prayer," Jesus told them a parable about God's fatherhood. This parable is Jesus' explanation of what God is like as father. Use Luke 11:11-13 as a discussion to talk about God's fatherhood.

#### Some questions to engage with the text:

1. The disciples lived with Jesus, but they still needed Him to teach them to pray. What does that mean for us? Why is this prayer important for us?
2. The disciples did not ask Jesus to teach them about prayer but to pray. What is the difference? How does that change the focus of the request? What does that mean for us?
3. Jesus builds a comparison of a human father to the heavenly father. What is the comparison about? How does God exceed our human understanding of fatherhood?
4. What is the focus of the GOOD that God gives to everyone who asks Him as his father? How does that change the way we see prayer, the answers of prayer, and God's fatherhood?

*Remember: Not everyone had a good father figure in their life. **Still, all of us have an idea of what a good father could be like. An idea, that serves as a comparison point to our earthly fathers.** Jesus tells us that God is our father and that He exceeds all the expectations of an earthly "human" father (Lk 11:13). How does that reality change your present today?*