

# "Not Like That, Like This"

Week 1

## KEY PASSAGES:

**Luke 11:1** "Lord, teach us to pray..."

**Matt. 6:9** "Our Father..."

**Matthew 6:5-7** when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

**Matthew 6:2-4:** "When you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret."

**Matthew 23:25-26** "Teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean."

## QUESTIONS:

1. Share together any fun, memorable or particularly meaningful experiences from over the Christmas / New Years holiday break.
2. Did you grow up with any prayer or saying that was recited regularly in your home? Was it meaningful or more just mechanical repetition?
3. What are some of your earliest memories, associations or exposure with the Lord's Prayer?
4. We will get more in-depth with the opening greeting 'Our Father' next week, but share one stereotype or generalization about fathers (or men in general) that you have experienced in your life.
5. Mt. 6:5-7 above is sort of a disclaimer or preface that Jesus offers about prayer before He walks us through the actual prayer we are familiar with. We pulled out two main highlights: Prayer is not about appearances and prayer is not about impressive language... rather, it's about intent and honesty of heart. Read the passage, then answer the remaining questions accordingly:

### Prayer is not about appearances:

- a. Share a time you *definitely* did your best to try and convince someone you were better / smarter / nobler / more spiritual / whatever... than you really were.
- b. Can you identify one area in your faith where you are most tempted to make it about appearances instead of about heart?

### Prayer is not about impressive language:

- a. Share a time you used an impressive or convincing sounding presentation to basically BS your way into something.
- b. Can you identify one area in your faith where you are most tempted to make it about great sounding language & explanations instead of about heart and action?

Pray about all of these together as a group before you dismiss.