



Conversation Guide || Connect Groups

Based on Faith Eury Cho's Sermon on Matthew 6:5-8

WELCOME & OPENING

Welcome everyone and open with a brief prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time together and help each person encounter God more deeply through this discussion.

SERMON RECAP

Key Points:

- Jesus taught us how not to pray before teaching us how to pray - don't pray like hypocrites (acting to be seen) or like pagans (babbling to get results)
- The "secret place" isn't about aesthetics or a perfect devotional setup - it's a posture of availability to God
- Jesus invites us to a dark, windowless room - silence and stillness where God reveals Himself
- Having God vs. befriending God: We have access through Jesus' blood, but intimacy requires intentional presence
- Through Jesus, the veil is torn - we're invited back to garden-like communion with our Father
- God already knows what you need - prayer isn't about earning or convincing, but about relationship with a Father who sees you

ICEBREAKER

Question: *Think back to a time when you felt truly seen or heard by someone - maybe a parent, friend, or mentor. What made that moment meaningful to you?*

This helps the group ease into the deeper topic of being seen and known by God, connecting our human experiences of intimacy with what God invites us into through prayer.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Faith shared three ways people pray incorrectly: as hypocrites (acting to be seen), as transactional pagans (babbling to get results), or making prayer a "means to an end."

- Which of these resonates most with your own prayer struggles? Why?

Read Matthew 6:5-8 together.

- What stands out to you about Jesus' instructions here?
- What surprised you or challenged you in this passage?

Faith described the "secret place" as a posture of availability rather than just a physical location.

- What does that mean to you practically?
- What might need to change in your life to cultivate that posture?

The dark, windowless room: Faith pointed out that the private room Jesus described wasn't comfortable or aesthetic - it was dark and still.

- Why do you think silence and solitude can feel so uncomfortable?
- What might God want to reveal to us in those places?

Faith said: "Secret place prayer does not make God more present. It just awakens our awareness of the one who's already with us."

- How does this shift your understanding of prayer?

Personal Reflection

Faith asked, *"Do you know who is with you?"* Take a moment to consider:

- Do you truly experience God as a Father who knows what you need, or does prayer still feel like twisting someone's arm?
- What would it look like to approach Him differently?

APPLICATION

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one practical step to cultivate "secret place" prayer this week:

- Set aside 10-15 minutes of quiet, undistracted time each day to simply be present with God (no agenda, no list - just worship, listen, and receive)
- Turn off notifications during that time and resist the urge to fill silence with words

- Journal one way you experienced God as Father this week - how He saw you, knew you, or met a need

Accountability: Pair up with one other person in the group and commit to checking in with each other midweek about how this practice is going.

PRAYER TIME

Take a few moments of quiet, inviting the Holy Spirit to speak. Then pray together:

Leader guides the group in prayer:

"Lord, help us to truly know who is with us right now. Open our eyes to see You as You are. Forgive us for the ways we've made prayer about earning, performing, or getting results. We choose to come to You as our Father who already knows what we need. Holy Spirit, fill us afresh. Help us to live from the overflow of communion with You. Amen."

Remind the group: You don't have to earn intimacy with God. He's already with you. The invitation is simply to come.