



Matthew 6

a better kingdom

PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:

The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.

Pray & read Matthew chapter 6

What stands out in this reading?

What puzzles you about this reading?

How does this reading make you **feel**?

What do you **think** in response to this reading?

What will you **do** in response to this reading?

When you meet together – pray for understanding and a humble heart

read & discuss Matthew 6.1 (the following questions could help lead the discussion)

What is the wrong motivation for righteous living (doing right and good things)? (v1a)

What happens if you do acts of righteousness to be seen by others? (v1b)

read & discuss Matt 6.2-18 (the following questions could help lead the discussion)

Discuss how the example of giving to the needy helps you understand the principle of v1: (v2-4)

How does the hypocrite's earthly reward help you to understand the reward from the Father? (v2-4)

Discuss how the example of the hypocrite's prayers helps you understand the principle of v1: (v5-6)

Jesus teaches a prayer as a correction against pagan prayer. What strikes you most about this prayer? (v10-13)

'To be a forgiven person is to be a forgiving person' Do you agree? Why/why not? (v14-15)

Discuss how the example of fasting helps you understand the principle of v1: (v16-18)

Which of these 3 acts of righteousness (giving/praying/fasting) are you most prone to do in front of others to be seen by them? Is the reward of the Father important to you?

read & discuss Matt 6.19-34 (the following questions could help lead the discussion)

Where should we store up treasure? Why? (v19-21)

How might the 'eye' be connected to storing up treasure and greed? Why can't you serve both God and money? (v22-24)

How worried are you about everyday things and what might happen tomorrow? Why do Christians not have to be like others (pagans) when it comes to 'all these things'? (v25-32)

What is the opposite of living like pagans? (v33-34)

Wrap-up: In what ways has this chapter encouraged you to live with and for God this week?

PRAY: That you'll each grow to maturity through what you've just studied. Pray for the upcoming election in NSW. Pray for **India Gospel League:** Sudhar Singh our barefoot pastor/evangelist. Give thanks for the more than 650 leaders who gathered in November for the National Association of Interdependent Churches conference. Pray for the nation and government to address poverty, hunger, gender disparity, environmental distress, safety and human rights violations (women, children and minority groups).