

## Awesome & Near

**Ice-Breaker:** *(Group Leader - Have everyone in your group answer this question. Start with one person and then proceed around the group in a circle until the last person has answered. Be specific with who you would like to start with.)*

- What would God's best, look like to you this year?
- Is God's best possible regardless of your position in life or the possessions you have?

**Reflection Statement:** When we discover God's best, our position and our possessions do not equate and the realization that in both want and in surplus we are content because we know we have God's best.

**Tough Questions to Consider:** *(Group Leader - Ask 3 or 4 specific people to answer these questions.)*

1. Is everyone a child of God? (Text: John 1:12)
2. How does someone receive the title, "Child of God?"

**Exercise: DEFINE THE MAGNITUDE OF SPACE IN YOUR OWN TERMS**

- **How far is one light year?**
  - Make a statement about distance in space that reflects the magnitude of our universe.

**TEXT Luke 11:1-4** *(Group Leader - Ask someone to read the text out loud.)*

*Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."*

*2 Jesus said, "This is how you should pray:[a]*

*"Father, may your name be kept holy.*

*May your Kingdom come soon.*

*3 Give us each day the food we need,[b]*

*4 and forgive us our sins,*

*as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*And don't let us yield to temptation.[c]"*

**TEXT Matthew 6:5-12** *(Group Leader - Ask someone to read the text out loud.)*

*5 "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. 6 But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*

*7 "When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. 8 Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! 9 Pray like this:*

***Our Father in heaven,***

***may your name be kept holy.***

*10 May your Kingdom come soon.*

*May your will be done on earth,*

*as it is in heaven.*

*11 Give us today the food we need,[a]*

*12 and forgive us our sins,*

*as we have forgiven those who sin against us.*

*13 And don't let us yield to temptation,[b]*

*but rescue us from the evil one.[c]*

**Group Question:** *(Group Leader - Ask 2 or 3 specific people to answer these questions.)*

- Describe in Heaven or above the Heavens.
- Who is to keep God's name Holy?
  - What does that mean?
  - **Text:** 2 Corinthians 5:21

***The relationship of Father is personal and this invitation to communicate with God who holds the universe is one we should meditate on. And we are then inspired to ask Him to work out his perfection/holiness in us. This is a prayer posture that recognizes the awesomeness of God while inviting Him to be near working directly in us. This posture is the basis for understanding God's best. He wants direct connection with you.***

**Group Question:** *(Group Leader - Ask 2 or 3 specific people to answer these questions.)*

- Can you say Matthew 6:5 from memory?

**Closing Challenge:** *(Group Leader - Ask everyone to answer the challenge.)*

- To meditate simply means to focus on something. We do this often with worries in our lives and there is a remarkable transition when we take this same skill and use it towards positive change.
- *Meditate on your Father who is beyond the heavens wanting to work out his perfection in you.*

**Closing Prayer:** *(Group Leader - Ask someone to pray for the group out loud or have everyone in the group pray.)*

- Our Father in Heaven. May your name be kept Holy.

**Thanks:** Thanks to everyone for coming to group.