

# Sermon Discussion Guide

## Praying in Five Dimensions

40 Days of Prayer – Week 4

(Note – may only be reproduced for use as a participant in MCF's 40 Day of Prayer campaign)

*“Since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen (in) what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” Romans 1:20 (NIV)*

God is a multidimensional God – we see it in God’s creation, we see it in Jesus’ incarnation, and we see it in how the Holy Spirit moves. Because God is multidimensional I’m never alone. To pray in five dimensions, as I pray, I look backward to the cross, I look upward to my Father’s loving face, I look inward to Jesus living inside me, I look around and ask the Holy Spirit to use me, and I look forward to my future in faith. Let’s *Talk It Over!*

**OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.**

*“Can you fathom the limits and bounds of the greatness and power of God? The sky is no limit for God, but it lies beyond your reach! God knows the world of the dead, but you do not know it. God’s greatness is broader than the earth, and wider than the sea.” Job 11:7-9 (TEV)*

1. Read the verse above and put it into your own words. How would you paraphrase the message of this verse?

*“Grace & peace to you from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come.” Revelation 1:4 (NIV)*

2. Hebrews 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” How does that compare to the qualities mentioned in Revelation 1:4 above?

*“You should not act like cowering, fearful slaves, since God’s Spirit has adopted you as children into God’s family! Instead, by his spirit we simply cry out Abba! Father! and God’s Spirit affirms that we really are his children! And since we are now God’s child, we’re also heirs with Christ, and will share in both his suffering and his glory!” Romans 8:15-17*

3. What is the importance of calling God Abba! Father! according to Romans 8:15-17 above. How does doing this bring us closer to God?

*“Examine yourself to see if your faith is real and growing. Test yourself. Remember that Jesus is living in you – unless you’ve failed the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5*

4. In the scripture passage above it says to, “Remember that Jesus is living in you – unless you’ve failed the test.” What specifically are we to examine our self for according to the verse so that we don’t fail the test?

5. Pastor Rick says, “The truth will set you free – but first, it will make you miserable!” Can you relate to this statement? Please share with the group an example of how you have experienced this in your life, and how it set you free.

### **Diving Deeper (optional)**

*“I am confident of this, that God who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until it is finished on the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6*

Read Philippians 1:6 above aloud. We were created by God to make a contribution. Share with each other where the Lord has you in your walk with Him. What good work has the Lord begun in you that He is continuing to complete?

**REVIEW ANY ASSIGNMENTS OR COMMITMENTS MADE DURING YOUR PREVIOUS MEETING.**

## Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

### Suggestions for This Week's Study

- **Icebreaker:** Share about a hobby, sport, or other fun activity that ended up having more interesting dimensions than you originally expected.
- **Goals:** To see God as a multidimensional God – in God's creation, in Jesus' incarnation, and in how the Holy Spirit moves. To know that because God is multidimensional I'm never alone. To pray in five dimensions – and as I pray – to look backward to the cross, to look upward to my Father's loving face, to look inward to Jesus living inside me, to look around and ask the Holy Spirit to use me, and to look forward to my future in faith.
- **Final Prayer:** Heavenly Father, help us to know you as our loving "Daddy," "Papa," or "Abba" as Jesus instructed us to pray to you. You want our prayers to be personal, passionate, and a partnership with your Holy Spirit. We want to pray in five dimensions so that we understand that with you – we're never alone. May the cross remind us how deeply you love us, how costly evil & sin is, and how completely we're forgiven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### Preparing to Lead Your Group

- ✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group.
- ✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group in the next 60-90 days. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives? Consider God's five purposes for the church: Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, Mission and Worship, and make a plan to encourage your group members to growth and commitment in their weak areas.
- ✓ **PONDER YOUR PROGRESS** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn't. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. Consider whether your plan is being effective in moving the group to greater understanding and commitment. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

### Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Talk It Over is a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. We've designed it so it can be completed easily within 30-45 minutes. As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group. Decide in advance what is most important to focus on, should time not allow for the entire lesson.
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, consider using the Diving Deeper section or add additional Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- The questions relating to Bible study methods are helpful to develop Bible literacy and spiritual maturity in our lives. You can help your group be aware of their needs in these areas by using these questions as a regular part of each discussion.
- Personal applications are essential for growth and should be included in every discussion. When discussing how they will apply principles, group members may state very general goals such as "I need to spend more time in prayer." It is important for you to help people make goals that are very specific and commit to specific plans of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 25 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.