

JESUS AT THE CENTER OF THE KINGDOM

GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help you experience deeper intimacy with Jesus and build meaningful, lasting relationships with others. Get together with friends or find a group by visiting brookwoodchurch.org/groups.

Let's grow stronger together!

July 6, 2025

Message Title: *Experiencing Intimacy with God*

Main Passage: Matthew 6:9

Included in this Guide

1. Introduction to the Series
2. Connect
3. Pray
4. Explore and Discuss
5. The One Thing
6. Scripture Memory

Introduction to the Series

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them.

Matthew 5:1-2 (NIV).

What follows this verse in Matthew chapters 5-7 has become what is probably the most well-known teaching of Jesus, often referred to as *The Sermon on the Mount*. We studied Matthew 5 last summer. We'll continue with Matthew 6 this summer, and plan to finish the series with Matthew 7 next summer.

Connect

Feel free to respond to any or all of these questions to help get the conversation rolling:

- What has God been drawing your attention to lately?
- Describe a time in your childhood when you felt loved.
- What's been your experience reciting or praying The Lord's Prayer?

Pray

Lord, the noise of this world is deafening. I often find it difficult to hear Your voice. I pray You'd break through the chaos and help me experience stillness as I seek to be fully present with You. Teach me. Lead me. Change me. May I experience more of You today than I did yesterday.

Add to these words your own praises and prayers to God.

Explore and Discuss

Don't rush through this. It's OK if you don't get to all the questions. Sometimes it'll make sense to go on to the next question. Other times, you might slow down and process a bit longer. Allow God to guide the pace of your discussion.

Matthew 6:9 (NIV)

"This, then, is how you should pray:

*"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name..."*

1. What's the significance of God being in heaven and also our Father?
2. What's the difference between knowing about God and having intimacy with God?
3. How have you come to know God as Father?
4. What does it mean for God's name to be hallowed (made or kept holy)?
5. What other insights do you have from this verse?

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7 (NIV)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image, in Our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind in His Own image,
in the image of God He created them;
male and female He created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

⁷ Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

6. What do you learn about God from these verses?

7. Which of these truths or insights is most significant to you? Why?

8. If this were the only passage of Scripture you had, how would you describe the relationship between God and man?

9. Have you ever experienced God like that? Explain.

10. The book of Genesis was written to the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness between their escape from Egypt and entrance into the Promised Land. How do you think these verses in Genesis would have helped them continue the journey?

11. What do these passages teach you about having or developing intimacy with God?

a. Psalm 145:8-9

b. Jeremiah 33:6-9

c. Matthew 23:37-39

12. What new experiences can you create to cultivate deeper intimacy with God?

The One Thing

What's one thing you'll take away from this week's lesson? Pause quietly for a few minutes and ask God what He wants you to know. Allow time for Him to put thoughts in your mind and stir your heart. Share briefly what you sense God is saying to you, then pray for each other.

Scripture Memory

Memorizing Scripture will help you carry God's life-shaping words with you at all times and in all places. These words anchor our lives in truth, deepen our intimacy with God, and guide us on the path that leads to life. May we be like the Psalmist who ...*hid the words of God in his heart* (from Psalm 119:11).

Here's a passage to memorize based on this week's teaching. Consider writing this on a note card and carrying it with you this week.

*"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be
Your name,'"*

Matthew 6:9 (NIV)