

GROWTH GROUPS

December 16, 2012

First week of Advent – “Worship Fully – The Advent Conspiracy” Matthew 6:11

Conversation Starter –

Challenge – see who can remember the most about gift receiving last Christmas. Make a list of gifts you received and who gave them to you. Whoever remembers the most wins!

Understanding -

Our Lord is a “gift-giver” and so should we be. However, the way we give and the type of gifts we give are frequently counter to how God would have us give.

1. God gives according to his own priorities. Reread the Lord’s prayer and outline the priorities that Jesus points out. What challenges do we face if we try to give gifts that align with the priorities of God? *(ie. Pastor Clint mentioned that gift giving should point to the intimate nature of God by giving something that communicates personal interest and concern. The challenge.....this takes time and effort!)*
2. In encouraging us to pray, “*give us today our daily bread*” Jesus implies that we probably shouldn’t desire a great abundance. Read Proverbs 30:8-9 and talk about what dangers are inherent when talking about giving in material ways.
3. The Lord’s Prayer gives expression to the whole of human need; physical, mental (or relational) and spiritual. Because we live in such a materially wealthy country *(who won the initial challenge and how many gifts did they remember)* we may want to give in ways that meet the relational or spiritual needs of friends. What ideas come to mind? How might God be calling you give?