

# GROWTH GROUPS

December 2, 2012

## **First week of Advent – “Worship Fully – The Advent Conspiracy” Matthew 6:9**

### **Conversation Starter –**

If you have one, share a “lampoon’s Christmas memory” from your life. That is, a time when you had expectations and hopes for a Christmas event that came crashing down.

### **Understanding -**

For the next four weeks we will be studying the Lord’s Prayer. The thought is, if we can learn how to better meet God in prayer, we might also be able to better meet Christ during Advent.

1. Jesus begins the prayer by introducing the character of God. God is both “intimate” father or even daddy and “transcendent;” who lives in the heavens. We are called to hold both of these natures of God in balance as we enter into relationship with him. Which is harder for you to experience and appreciate, the intimacy of God or the transcendence of God and why?
2. According to the prayer, our foremost desire should be to witness God “setting apart his holy name” or vindicating himself in the world. Continued expressions of this are given as the prayer unfolds, “your kingdom come” and “your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” unpack this same thought. What do you think this would look like in the world in which you live? What would it look like for God himself to be preeminent in your home, workplace or the church?
3. Frequently, instead of praying that God, himself, would bring his kingdom into the world, we work to help him along. We create images in our mind of what should be and then work frantically towards them only to become frustrated when things don’t work out as we imagined. Instead, Jesus calls us to “worship fully” by aligning ourselves with God’s character and priorities for our lives. What could this look like for you this Advent?