

# THRIVE

## High School Small Group Guide

### Session 10

Known: Experiencing God in Daily Prayer  
Week 1

- This is the first session of our new series called Known: Experiencing God in Daily Prayer. This series includes several videos.

#### Watch Video Segment #1

To watch these videos, use this link to create a free account and then watch Known: Experiencing God in Daily Prayer -> Session 1: Encountering God: [https://www.ydisciple.tv/orders/customer\\_info?o=148118](https://www.ydisciple.tv/orders/customer_info?o=148118)

Reflect and Discuss:

1. When you hear the word "prayer" what is the first thing that comes to mind for you?
2. What stood out to you in Ali's story?
3. She draws a connection between her relationship with her dad, God the Father, and prayer. In what ways is our relationship with God like a relationship between a child and a father?
4. All of our human fathers, even the best ones, are imperfect simply because they are human. Do you think that our experience of our human fathers impacts our view of God the Father? If so, how?

#### Watch Video Segment #2

Discuss: What is one thing that stood out to you in that clip?

- Open your Bible to John 4. This passage takes place in Samaria. The people of Samaria, known as Samaritans, had once been Jewish like the people in Jerusalem and like Jesus himself, but had over the years adopted many religious practices of other pagan religions around them. They were considered by the Jews in Jerusalem to be “religious half-breeds.” Because of this, there was deep hatred between the Jews and Samaritans.
- In Jesus’ time, it would be highly irregular for a Jewish man to speak directly to a woman he did not know. Also, remember that this takes place in the Middle East, which is a very hot, arid climate. Most women would go to the well in the morning before it was too hot and carrying back a large water jug would be laborious.

**Read John 4:4-29.**

Reflect and Discuss:

1. This story has a lot of very specific details in it. What was one interesting detail that you noticed?
2. Why did Jesus go to the well?
3. Why was the woman at the well?
4. Why did she go at noon? (Remember the notes about the context. No one else would be there at noon. She was avoiding people.)
5. Who initiates conversation? Jesus or the woman?
6. From her conversation, what can you tell about what kind of person she was? (She had a reputation. It is also clear she is carrying around shame herself.)
7. What does Jesus ask her for?
8. How would you describe the woman's response?

9. How does Jesus turn the tables on her in verse 10? (He tells her that she would ask him for a drink if she knew who he was.)
10. What do you think is the "living water" to which he refers?
11. What did the woman do when she realizes who Jesus really is? (She goes back to the town, where she is unwelcome, and tells everyone about him.)

### **Watch Video Segment #3**

Discuss: What stood out to you in that clip?

- Ali shares the following quote from the Catechism that breaks open the passage we just read from the Gospel of John: "'If you knew the gift of God!' The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him." (CCC 2560)

Reflect and Discuss:

1. If God is perfect and therefore doesn't need anything, why do you think He "thirsts" for my prayer?
  - Jesus is talking about so much more than physical thirst. Blaise Pascal, a French philosopher, once said: "There is a God-shaped [void] in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus." Also, God doesn't *need* us, but He created us out of love, and having a relationship with us brings Him great joy.
2. What was the woman at the well trying to fill her "God-shaped void" with?

3. What are some common things that people today try to satisfy themselves with?
4. Do you think it is possible for God to truly satisfy us? What does that look like?
5. Ali says, “prayer is so much more than a Christmas list” and that “prayer *is* the relationship” with God. How does this challenge what most people think about prayer?
6. Prayer is ultimately about moving beyond knowing about God to knowing Him. What is the difference between "knowing about someone" and "knowing someone"?
7. Who is someone in your life with whom you can be vulnerable? What does it take to be vulnerable with someone?
8. Do you find it easy or difficult to be vulnerable with God?
9. What has been your experience with prayer?
10. If you pray, what does it look like (how often, types, etc.)?
11. In this series, we are going to be focusing on building a habit of daily, personal prayer. Do you know someone who does this? What do they do in their daily prayer time? How does it affect them? Do you notice anything different about them?

### Session Challenges

- Now for our challenges: This week, we are not asking you to start praying for an hour every day. Rather, we want to simply grow in our desire to pray. This week, pray every day: **GOD, GIVE ME THE DESIRE TO PRAY.**
- Also, try to complete the prayer, fasting, and almsgiving challenges of the week from the Lent Challenges.

- Our verse of the week is Isaiah 43:1 - "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine."

**In in prayer.**