

# MATTHEW 6:1-18 / OCTOBER 19

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Read & Pray

Read **Matthew 6:1–18**. After reading, spend 60 seconds in silent listening prayer. What applications or thoughts about the text came into your mind? Might those be from the Spirit? Close with a prayer to God for wisdom to apply these truths.

### Key Observations

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- The passage has a clear, repeating structure, addressing three practices: giving (vv. 2–4), praying (vv. 5–15), and fasting (vv. 16–18).
- Each section contrasts a negative example (the "hypocrites") with a positive command for the disciple, using the phrase "But when you ..."
- "Seeing" and "reward" are central. Notice the contrast between being seen by men and being seen by the Father.
- A crucial condition of prayer is highlighted immediately after the model prayer: the necessity of forgiving others in order to be forgiven by the Father.

### Group Discussion

1. What specific actions and motivations does Jesus attribute to the "hypocrites" in their giving, praying, and fasting, according to verses 2, 5, and 16?
2. Notice the repeated phrase "they have received their reward." What is the reward the hypocrites receive, and how does it contrast with the disciple's reward?
3. What does this passage reveal about God? Specifically, what does it mean that he is a Father "who sees in secret"?
4. Reflect on your own spiritual practices of giving, praying, or fasting. In which of the three areas are you tempted toward performing for others?
5. How could our small group practically encourage one another in authentic, secret devotion without turning it into another form of public accountability or performance?

### CHALLENGE

- This week, lean into your identity as a **worshiper**. Choose one discipline: giving, praying, or fasting. Resolve to practice it not as a public performance, but as a secret act of worship intended for an audience of One: your heavenly Father.

### PRAYER

- Ask God to expose and purify our motives for practicing spiritual disciplines, turning our heart's audience from people to him alone.
- Pray that God would free us from the fear of what others think, empowering us to practice righteousness for his glory alone.
- Ask the Father to give us the grace to forgive others their trespasses (vv. 12, 14–15).