

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### For Personal Study

Settle into your favorite chair with your Bible, a pen or pencil, and this book. Read a chapter of this book, marking portions that seem significant to you. Write in the margins. Note where you agree, disagree, or question the author. Look up the referenced Scripture passages. Then turn to the questions listed in this discussion guide. If you want to trace your progress with a written record, use a notebook to record your answers, thoughts, feelings, and further questions. Refer to the text and to the Scriptures as you allow the questions to enlarge your thinking. And *pray*. Ask God to give you a discerning mind for truth, an active concern for others, and a greater love for Himself.

### For Group Study

#### *Plan Ahead*

Before meeting with your group, read and mark the chapter as if you were preparing for personal study. Glance through the

questions, making mental notes of how you might contribute to your group's discussion. Bring a Bible and the text to your meeting.

### *Arrange an Environment That Promotes Discussion*

Comfortable chairs arranged in a casual circle invite people to talk with each other. Then say, "We are here to listen and respond to each other—and to learn together." If you are the leader, simply be sure to sit where you can have eye contact with each person.

### *Promptness Counts*

Time is as valuable to many people as money. If the group runs late (because of a late start), these people will feel as robbed as if you had picked their pockets. So, unless you have a mutual agreement, begin and end on time.

### *Involve Everyone*

Group learning works best if everyone participates more or less equally. If you are a natural *talker*, pause before you enter the conversation. Then ask a quiet person what he or she thinks. If you are a natural *listener*, don't hesitate to jump into the discussion. Others will benefit from your thoughts—but only if you speak them. If you are the *leader*, be careful not to dominate the session. Of course, you will have thought about the study ahead of time, but don't assume that people are present just to hear you—as flattering as that may feel. Instead, help group members make their own discoveries. Ask the questions, but insert your own ideas only as they are needed to fill gaps.

### *Pace the Study*

The questions for each session are designed to last about one hour. Early questions form the framework for later discussion, so don't rush by so quickly that you miss a valuable foundation. Later questions, however, often speak of the here and now. Thus don't dawdle so long at the beginning that you leave no time to "get personal." While the leader must take responsibility for timing the flow of questions, it is the job of each person in the group to assist in keeping the study moving at an even pace.

### *Pray for Each Other—Together or Alone*

Then watch God's hand at work in all of your lives. Notice that each session includes the following features:

**Session Topic**—a brief statement summarizing the session.

**Community Builder**—an activity to get acquainted with the session topic and/or with each other.

**Questions**—a list of questions to encourage individual or group discovery and application.

**Prayer Focus**—suggestions for turning one's learning into prayer.

**Optional Activities**—supplemental ideas that will enhance the study.

**Assignment**—activities or preparation to complete prior to the next session.

## A HEART SET ON GOD

### Session Topic

A believer whose heart is set on God will cultivate a constant attitude of prayer throughout each day.

### Community Builder (Choose One)

1. Today's society presents us with many options for how to spend our free time. Name one activity you like to do for leisure. Do you think this ever consumes too much of your time?
2. Are you a morning or an evening person? Or does time of day not affect your alertness? How does your answer influence when you spend extended time in prayer?

## Group Discovery Questions

1. Is breathing a good illustration of what prayer ought to be like? Why or why not?
2. Why would any Christian want to behave like a practical humanist? Name and discuss several things (programs, methods, resources) that you think could lead to such action.
3. How did the miraculous events on the day of Pentecost affect the prayer practices of the early church (Acts 1—2; 6:4)?
4. What did you envision when you first heard the statement “Pray without ceasing”? Was this different from your current understanding of 1 Thessalonians 5:17? If so, how?
5. How does the wording at the beginning of Ephesians 6:18 help explain the all-encompassing nature of prayer?
6. What two important but contrasting lessons can we learn from the prayer time in the garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36–46; Luke 22:40–46)?
7. How are the parables in Luke 11:5–10 and 18:1–8 different from the other ones Jesus told?
8. What is so significant about praying “in the Spirit”? (See Rom. 8:26–27.)

## Prayer Focus

- Pray that, as you start this study, God would help you and each member of your group to become more aware of the need for daily prayer.
- Resolve to set aside enough time at the end of each meeting to pray as a group and follow up on previous weeks' prayer requests.

## Optional Activities

1. Reread the long quotation from Charles Spurgeon in the section titled "A Way of Life." Try rewriting it in more contemporary language. Use at least one modern illustration that would exemplify the truth of how prayer ought to be a way of life.
2. Keep a prayer journal over the next month. Record lists of things and people you need to pray for. Also leave room for writing down answers to prayer. Share with a Christian friend at least one of the answers the Lord gives.

## Assignment

1. Memorize Ephesians 6:18.
2. Read chapter 2 of *Alone with God*.

## SEEKING THE LORD IN SECRET

### Session Topic

God wants us to approach Him in prayer with humility, openness, and sincerity, not with pride and hypocrisy like the Pharisees.

### Community Builder (Choose One)

1. Share what your favorite kind of getaway spot is (one where you can be alone). Some might want to describe more specifically where theirs is and what it's like.
2. We all dislike insincerity and contrived approaches in everyday life. Can you think of an experience (perhaps with an overzealous salesperson) that was especially irritating for you?

## Group Discovery Questions

1. What was the Old Testament view of the importance of prayer? (See Ps. 65:2; 91:15; 145:18.)
2. How did the prophet Isaiah model the trait of reverence when he was face-to-face with God? (See Isa. 6.)
3. Did the Jews have a sense of solidarity? If so, what was it based on, and how did it affect their prayer lives?
4. What were some characteristics and attitudes of ritualized prayer? What are the names of the two most common formal prayers used by the Jews?
5. Do you have the tendency to offer public prayers that are too long? If so, look again at Jesus' warning in Mark 12:40 and consider some ways you might streamline your prayers.
6. What sin was at the heart of the Pharisees' approach to prayer (Matt. 6:5)?
7. What prayer trait did the Jews borrow from the Gentiles? Did it enhance or detract from the content of prayers offered to God?

## Prayer Focus

- Set aside some time during the coming week to examine your motives for prayer. Ask God to reveal to you the things that may hinder your regular prayer times.

- Do you have a quiet place where you can go to pray? If not, ask God to provide a spot where you can get away from everything else and be with Him. If you have such a place, thank Him for providing it.
- The discipline of daily prayer can become monotonous. Ask the Lord to give you renewed strength and fresh desire to be faithful in prayer.

## Optional Activities

1. Go to your church library or local Christian bookstore and obtain another book about prayer. Read it over the next few weeks and write down those things that might supplement the theme of *Alone with God*.
2. Most of us receive at least a couple of prayer letters from missionaries or Christian ministries. Reread several recent ones and evaluate them on how well they present their prayer requests. Do you feel they are self-centered, or do they seek to put the attention on God? Write down your thoughts.

## Assignment

1. Read Matthew 6:8–13 and Luke 11:1–4. Notice the differences in context and wording of the Lord's Prayer.
2. Read chapter 3 of *Alone with God*.

## “OUR FATHER”

### Session Topic

Prayer should always begin and end with the recognition that we can and ought to glorify God as our Father.

### Community Builder (Choose One)

1. Some church traditions recite the Lord’s Prayer every week as part of the worship service. Do you think this practice is scriptural? Why or why not?
2. Several years ago, Bible commentator J. B. Phillips wrote a book titled *Your God Is Too Small*. Do people still expect too little of God today? Or do they make too many demands of Him when praying?

## Group Discovery Questions

1. What great truth did Jonah, Daniel, and Jeremiah exemplify in their prayers? Look again at Jonah 2, Daniel 9, and Jeremiah 32.
2. What is a more accurate title we could give to the Lord's Prayer?
3. Reconstruct one of the outlines or patterns of the prayer that you believe best shows Jesus' purpose in sharing it with the disciples. Why do you favor the one you chose?
4. What distinguishes the children of light from the children of darkness? (See Eph. 5:8; 2 Peter 1:4.)
5. What five elements encompassed the fatherhood of God for Old Testament Jews? To which one or ones do you think believers today can most easily relate?
6. What word for father did Jesus often use when referring to God? What does it mean in English?
7. Read Matthew 7:7–11 again. What do you find most helpful or comforting from this passage?
8. What are the benefits of having God as our Father? How would you arrange them in order of importance?

## Prayer Focus

- Not everyone has a good relationship with (or good memories of) his or her earthly father. Pray and thank God that He is always available to be a loving Heavenly Father.
- What has been the focus of your recent prayer times? If it has been too self-centered, ask the Lord to help your prayer be more centered on Him.

## Optional Activities

1. Do a brief study of the person and attributes of God. Read a standard work on the subject, such as A. W. Tozer's *The Knowledge of the Holy* or Arthur W. Pink's *The Attributes of God*. Take some notes on your reading and tell the group what was most profitable from your study.
2. Read Psalm 139 and meditate on what it says about God's omnipresence and omniscience. Record some key verses to remember.

## Assignment

1. Begin memorizing Matthew 6:9–13.
2. Read chapter 4 of *Alone with God*.

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### “HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME”

#### Session Topic

When Christians approach God in prayer, they are to remind themselves of His holiness and the greatness of His name.

#### Community Builder (Choose One)

1. How do you respond when you hear someone use the Lord's name in vain? Do you think, as a rule, it is better just to ignore the remark or to admonish the person?
2. People's names are important to them. Share, if you can, some interesting fact about your name or the selection of a child's name.

## Group Discovery Questions

1. What is the primary reason for the existence of the church and each individual within it?
2. What is the most familiar Hebrew name for God? (See Ex. 3:14.) Why did the Jews not say that name out loud?
3. In Scripture, names were more than mere titles. What more important thing are they representative of or equated with?
4. How did Jesus reveal God's character to His disciples? (See John 1:14; 14:9.)
5. What Old Testament verse lists more names for Jesus Christ than any New Testament verse?
6. What contemporary words can be used as synonyms for *hallowed*? What do they tell us about our relationship with God?
7. What is the most central truth, or most important attribute, concerning God (Isa. 6:3)?
8. Nine "anxieties of holiness" are listed under the section titled "The Fear of the Lord Is Not an Option." Which ones do you think are the most difficult to deal with and why?
9. What three truths must be grasped in order to fully "hallow" God's name?

## Prayer Focus

- How has your zeal for the dignity of God's name and your progress in the pursuit of your own sanctification been lately? Spend some time in prayer reviewing your attitudes. Ask God to forgive your indifference and increase your desire to know Him.
- How respectful are you of the good names (reputations) of fellow Christians, especially those who are leaders in your church? Pray that you would be faithful in this regard and that those leaders would present good testimonies in the community.

## Optional Activities

1. Write each Hebrew name for God, with its English translation, on a separate piece of paper or index card. Try memorizing the meanings of all eleven terms. Look up and record the Old Testament passages in which they are used.
2. Have you ever experienced an "anxiety of holiness"? It could have occurred when you became a Christian or at some later date. Give a short testimony to that experience at your next study meeting. You might want to recount someone else's experience (one who is not part of your present group) if you feel that it is more appropriate or timelier. If you do not share a testimony with the group,

write out your recollections as a prayer or “open letter” of thankfulness to God.

### Assignment

1. Continue to work on memorizing Matthew 6:9–13.  
Review some portion of it every day.
2. Read chapter 5 of *Alone with God*.

## “YOUR KINGDOM COME”

### Session Topic

Our prayers should support the establishment of God’s kingdom and the rule of Christ within it.

### Community Builder (Choose One)

1. What is one thing about today’s American culture that greatly concerns you? How does this thing contribute to the post-Christian or anti-Christian atmosphere in our country?
2. Do you have any future plans or visions for your career, your family, or your personal improvement? How does the amount of time spent on those hopes compare

with the time you give to church and furthering God's kingdom? Is it hard to maintain a balance?

### Group Discovery Questions

1. What is the church's chief mission in this world? What kinds of influences seek to divert it from that mission?
2. Is it valid for a Christian to bring his or her own concerns and causes before God in prayer? What is the only thing that gives them validity?
3. What poses the greatest opposition to Christ's kingdom and Christian living?
4. What is a common characteristic of all the great empires that have existed throughout world history?
5. Of the three temporal aspects—past, present, and future—of God's kingdom, which is to be our main focus in prayer?
6. What can help us reconcile the seemingly contrasting truths that God's kingdom can be present now but also coming in the future?
7. What are the two main features related to the kingdom's coming to earth now?

## Prayer Focus

- Pray for our nation and its culture. Ask God to turn people's hearts away from sin and toward Him.
- Thank God for the wonderful privilege of being a member of His kingdom. Pray for several people by name whom you know are not part of God's kingdom.
- What are your priorities in relation to serving in and helping further God's kingdom? If they need to be more in line with God's, ask Him for the wisdom and guidance to make the necessary adjustments.

## Optional Activities

1. Do some additional study on the nature of God's kingdom. For a view of how the kingdom contrasts with the world's system, read Martyn Lloyd-Jones' *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*, focusing especially on the chapters dealing with Matthew 6—7. For guidance on how believers ought to live in God's kingdom today, read my book *Kingdom Living Here and Now*.
2. Read and study the parables of the kingdom in Matthew 13:1–52. Summarize in your own words the theme or themes of the passage. Record the similarities and differences you notice among the various kingdom parables.

## Assignment

1. Review your memorization work on Matthew 6:9–13.  
Begin learning Psalm 2:6–8 as well.
2. Read chapter 6 of *Alone with God*.

## “YOUR WILL BE DONE”

### Session Topic

When we pray, our wills are to agree with God’s will, and we are to desire for His will to be accomplished throughout the world.

### Community Builder (Choose One)

1. How have you tended to see the effects of your prayers: more from the standpoint of your own persuasiveness or from the standpoint of how God answered your petitions? Explain your answer.
2. Describe a recent example of how you strongly wanted your own way in a situation. Did your attitude create difficulties for you or others?

## Group Discovery Questions

1. How did David (Ps. 40:8) and Jesus (John 4:34) show that they were familiar with the attitude of the third petition?
2. How would you describe poet Omar Khayyám's view of God? Think of one or two adjectives that would be appropriate.
3. What does the story in Acts 12 tell us about the vulnerability of the early church's prayer life? (See esp. vv. 1–17.)
4. In regard to life's course of events, what tension has always existed between God and man? How have you resolved this tension in your own mind?
5. How and when did Jesus demonstrate a sense of righteous rebellion regarding God's will?
6. When it comes to seeing a difference or having a change occur, how do most Christians view prayer? What attitude needs to replace this view?
7. What three aspects of God's will are discussed toward the end of this chapter? Name one or two main distinctives of each aspect.
8. How can prayer be a means of progressive sanctification? Can you think of an example when it worked that way in your life or in the life of a loved one?

## Prayer Focus

- Pray and ask God to conform your heart and mind to His will in everything. If you are struggling with His will in a certain situation, pray about that especially.
- Is there a violation against God's will about which your action could make a positive difference? If so, pray for wisdom and courage to take the appropriate action.
- Spend some time next week thanking God for the many ways His will is being accomplished around the world.

## Optional Activities

1. Do some additional study on God's purposes in permitting evil. Read pages 105–124 of my book *The Vanishing Conscience* and write down the key points of that section.
2. Read Philip Keller's *A Layman Looks at the Lord's Prayer*. Be alert for topics of discussion that are additional to those covered in *Alone with God*.

## Assignment

1. Memorize Romans 12:1–2.
2. Read chapter 7 of *Alone with God*.

## “GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD”

### Session Topic

Because God has promised to provide all our physical needs, we can pray confidently and thankfully to Him that He will supply these provisions each day.

### Community Builder (Choose One)

1. Most of us have some dreams about owning material goods that would be additional to our daily essentials. Is it wrong to pray for such things?
2. Has there been any time recently when you were not in a position of relative abundance? If so, what were some ways the Lord met your needs for daily bread?

## Group Discovery Questions

1. What is a believer's dependence on God analogous to in a family context?
2. What kinds of needs does the term *bread* encompass?
3. What are some practical and commonplace ways people deny that God is the source of all they have?
4. Is concern for the environment and for technological tools to manage natural resources unhealthy? How can we balance these concerns with the recognition that everything we have is from God?
5. What fact makes the title of this chapter a valid petition? (See Ps. 37:3–4, 10–11, 25.)
6. How have non-Christian religions generally contributed to the lack of daily bread in some parts of the world? What specific example is given in this chapter?
7. God can certainly provide for us through miraculous means, but how does He normally supply our needs (2 Thess. 3:10–12)?

## Prayer Focus

- Do you know of missionaries who might be struggling to meet their own daily needs or the daily needs

of the people to whom they minister? Set aside some special time to pray for them today.

- Pray that God would help you and others in your study group live one day at a time and trust God to meet your daily needs.
- Give thanks to the Lord that He has given you, His child, all the basic provisions you need.

## Optional Activities

1. Do a brief study of 2 Corinthians 9. Review the ways you are sharing your resources and making spiritual investments for God's work. Do you need to improve your efforts or add some that you have been omitting?
2. Volunteer some of your time in the coming weeks to a local food pantry, homeless shelter, or similar agency. (If your community has none of these, pray for an opportunity to help a family in your church who may be in need of material support.)

## Assignment

1. Try reciting all of Matthew 6:9–13. If you're not quite ready, continue to review and memorize.
2. Read chapter 8 of *Alone with God*.

## “FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS”

### Session Topic

Because Christians continue to sin, we need to pray daily for the forgiveness of sins that only God, our loving Father, can provide.

### Community Builder (Choose One)

1. What do you find to be the most intolerable character trait in others? What could make it easier to deal with such persons and forgive them?
2. When is the last time you felt great relief at having a financial debt paid off? Describe your experience. What lessons can you draw from this and apply to spiritual forgiveness?

## Group Discovery Questions

1. What twofold reason makes God's forgiveness of our sins so significant for us? How does the quote from John Stott relate to this reason?
2. What six negative effects does sin have on our spiritual well-being? What other bad side effects does it have on our physical health and social well-being?
3. What five Greek words are most often used to denote the various aspects of sin? Which word or words best capture the meaning to you?
4. Describe in your own words the magnitude of God's judicial forgiveness. To whom is such forgiveness available?
5. Why do believers still have a need for God's parental forgiveness?
6. What important truths does Jesus' act of foot washing symbolize?
7. What benefits do we receive when we confess our sins? What happens when we do not? What makes confession so hard?
8. What simple principle shows us that forgiving others is the ultimate test for Christians?
9. Seven reasons for forgiving others are presented in this chapter. Which three do you and your group think are

most significant? As a group, discuss your reasoning and look at relevant Scripture verses.

### Prayer Focus

- Give thanks to the Lord for His marvelous solution to the problem of sin.
- The apostle Paul told us to examine ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5). This is especially appropriate to do before partaking of the Lord's Supper. Before the next observance of Communion at your church, examine your heart and bring any unconfessed sins before the Lord for His forgiveness.
- How is your forgiving spirit toward other Christians? If there is a grudge or unconfessed sin between you and another believer, ask for forgiveness now and pray for the opportunity to make things right with the other person.

### Optional Activities

1. Read John Stott's book *Confess Your Sins*. Record your comments, thoughts, and questions as you read. Write a brief synopsis of the book's theme and main points.
2. Do a word study of *forgiveness* or one of the terms for sin. If possible, use a dictionary of New Testament words, a

Bible encyclopedia, or a dictionary of theology as well as a concordance.

## Assignment

1. Read and meditate on Matthew 18. Notice the many admonitions it contains about sin, confession, and forgiveness.
2. Review Matthew 6:9–13. Are you able to recite it easily?
3. Read chapter 9 of *Alone with God*.

## “DELIVER US FROM EVIL”

### Session Topic

It is all right for us to ask God to protect us from sin as we encounter life's various trials and troubles.

### Community Builder (Choose One)

1. What do you believe is the biggest challenge from the world that keeps Christians from succeeding in their walks with God? What are some reasons for your answer?
2. On a scale of 0 to 10, how would you rate yourself in confronting difficulties and dangers? 0: You try to avoid confrontation whenever possible because you always seem to fail. 10: You look forward to such challenges and

wish more would come your way. Or are you somewhere in between?

## Group Discovery Questions

1. What kind of word is the Greek for “temptation” in Matthew 6:13? How does it differ from the English connotation?
2. How can we best reconcile what the sixth petition says with the admonitions and explanations in James 1?
3. Does every trial necessarily have to turn into a temptation? If not, what is the key factor that prevents this from happening?
4. What common thread of truth runs through Job 23:10; 1 Corinthians 10:13; and 1 Peter 1:6–7?
5. What is the ultimate key in dealing successfully with temptation? (See Ps. 119:11; James 4:7.)

## Prayer Focus

- Thank the Lord that, by the Holy Spirit’s power, evil is restrained from being even more rampant than it already is.
- Do you have an ongoing struggle with a particular temptation or sin? Lay claim to the promise in

1 Corinthians 10:13 and ask God for strength to resist temptation the next time it comes.

### Optional Activities

1. Do a comparative study of Matthew 4:1–11 and Luke 4:1–13, two accounts of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Notice the similarity between the accounts. What Old Testament references do both passages quote?
2. Over the next month during your personal devotional time, look for verses that attest to the power of God's Word to overcome evil. Make a list of these verses and select several for memorization. (Try to include this exercise in your regular reading and study time.)

### Assignment

1. Complete your memorization work on Matthew 6:9–13. Review it as many times as necessary in order to recite it at your next group study.
2. Read chapter 10 of *Alone with God*.

## PRAYING FOR THE RIGHT THINGS

### Session Topic

If we are truly praying for the right things, we will focus our prayer requests on what pertains to God's kingdom and our own spiritual growth.

### Community Builder (Choose One)

1. What two or three categories most typically dominate the prayer requests offered during the average church prayer meeting? Are most requests in line with God's priorities?
2. How would you assess your value system right now regarding possessions? What item(s) would be especially hard to give up? Is there something else that would be easy to do without?

## Group Discovery Questions

1. What kind of disillusionment came to the young lawyer in the Anton Chekhov story? What happened as a result of his disenchantment?
2. Throughout the recorded prayers of the apostle Paul, what was his primary concern?
3. In Paul's epistles, what does the phrase *your calling* always refer to?
4. What basic area does the concept of worthiness encompass? What are some practical ways in which you could test your own worthiness?
5. Why is it so important for Christians to walk worthily? What are some of the negative results of not walking worthily?
6. How could David be so bold in his desire for true spiritual fulfillment?
7. What is a primary reason that many unbelievers continue to reject Christianity? How can we behave so that people around us do not reject the truth? (See Matt. 5:16.)

## Prayer Focus

- Our prayer requests are often off target from what God would want them to be. Review the main things

you have prayed for recently. Eliminate those that are self-centered, and ask God to help you focus on the right things.

- Spend some time thanking the Lord that He is concerned about your spiritual growth and that He provides resources to assist in that growth.
- Each day during the coming week pray for a different person in your group that he or she would walk worthy of the Christian profession.

## Optional Activities

1. The New Testament contains thirty-three prayers of the apostle Paul. Pick out at least ten of these to read and study in more depth. (Many of them are fairly brief.) Make a list of the key elements contained in Paul's prayers.
2. Refer to the list of characteristics that manifest a worthy Christian walk. Choose seven (one for each day of the week) and write them, along with their verses, on individual index cards. Meditate on one each day next week.

## Assignment

1. Memorize one of the verses from the list of worthy-walk traits.
2. Read chapter 11 of *Alone with God*.

## PRAYING FOR THE LOST

### Session Topic

In order to be involved in reaching the lost, we first need to understand the essentials of evangelistic praying.

### Community Builder (Choose One)

1. Do you find it difficult to pray for those in authority, such as world and national leaders? Why is it easy to forget such people in our prayers?
2. Sometimes people are converted to Christ after being the subject of prayers for many years. If someone in your group knows the details of such a case, have them share it with the entire group.

## Group Discovery Questions

1. What expression in Romans 9:1–4 demonstrates the apostle Paul's strong desire to see his fellow Jews saved?
2. What are the four terms Paul uses in 1 Timothy 2:1 concerning evangelistic praying? Give an example of how the different shades of meaning could be applied to various needs.
3. What are several ways that praying for the salvation of *all* the lost is consistent with God's heart? (See Ezek. 33:11; Acts 17:30; 1 Tim. 2:4.)
4. Has the political activism of some Christian groups in recent years made any difference in reaching the lost? What truth from 2 Corinthians 10:4 is often forgotten?
5. What favorable conditions in our nation and society will the church and individual believers see as a result of faithfulness in evangelistic prayer?
6. How is our task of praying for the lost different from Jesus' prayer in John 17? (Compare v. 9 with 2 Cor. 5:20.)
7. How ought God's eternal saving purpose, coupled with His desire that no one perish, be a comfort to us in our praying for and witnessing to the lost? (See 2 Tim. 2:19.)
8. How should the uniqueness of God give us incentive to pray for the lost?

9. Spend some time discussing the nature of Christ's atonement. How can it be unlimited in sufficiency but limited in application?
10. Upon what truths was Paul's commission as an apostle and preacher based? How does that relate to the responsibility God has given us?

### Prayer Focus

- How diligent have you been during the past year to pray for unsaved friends and relatives? Ask the Lord to help you maintain or if necessary, improve your efforts.
- Choose the name of one unsaved person, perhaps a family member, and devote extra time during the coming month to praying for his or her salvation.
- Express your thanks to God for His great salvation and for His marvelous love in drawing you to Himself.

### Optional Activities

1. Read J. I. Packer's *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* or Charles Spurgeon's *The Soul Winner*. Look for insights on how you can apply what the book says to your evangelistic activities (witnessing as well as praying).

2. If you know a missionary pastor who is engaged in church planting, write him a letter and tell him of your prayer support. Share some of the principles you learned in this chapter and assure him of your prayers for the people he is seeking to reach with the Lord's help.

### Assignment

1. Review your memory work on Matthew 6:9–13. Try to finish memorizing it in the next week or two if you were unable to complete the assignment earlier.
2. Begin memorizing 1 Timothy 2:1–6. Give yourself a goal for when you will have the complete passage learned.