



## **FRIDAY** 9-17-10

**Read:** Amos 8:4-7 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=amos+8:4-7](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=amos+8:4-7))

**Prayer:** (Prayer from Psalm 139) “Lord, You have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit or stand. When far away You know my every thought. You chart the path ahead of me, and tell me where to stop and rest.” Amen

**Journal Reflection:** The Lord God will not forget! What a strong and frightening statement this is. The Lord God will not forget the oppression and abuse of the helpless and homeless of the land. Wow! Wrapped up in my own personal schedule within my nice suburban cocoon, I rarely remember the outcasts of this culture. God forgive me and energize me to reach out and do something for someone who is in need today.

**Resolve:** I am Christ’s servant for the world.

## **SATURDAY** 9-18-10

**Read:** Psalm 113 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+113](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+113))

**Prayer:** Eternal and Blessed God, I praise You for being You. If you never do anything for me personally, I will still praise You. If I die today, I will praise You. I praise You not because of what You do for me, but because of who You are. “From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.” Amen

**Journal Reflection:** Do your best to absent yourself from your prayer today. Just for today, pray for everyone and everything you can think of except yourself. Praise God for being God! Thank God for all God does for others. Focus your attention and your prayers upon someone other than yourself and your feelings. At the end of the day, reflect upon this spiritual exercise. Give yourself time to learn how important it is to just praise and thank God.

**Resolve:** All for God and none for me today. I praise God completely!

### **LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

**Foundational Scripture: Matthew 6:9**

**Featured Scripture Reflection:** “Pray in this way: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name.’” (Matthew 6:9 NRSV) ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+6:9](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+6:9))

**Opening Icebreaker:** What is one good characteristic of your father?

### **Scripture Questions**

***What is the scripture saying?***

- What are some implications of Jesus’ use of the word “Father” do address God? He could have used many more aloof names, but chose “Father”.
- Jesus used the familiar family term, “Abba” to address God. (Kind of like Daddy/Mommy) What implications can you think of for Jesus’ use of this term?
- In the larger context of the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew’s Gospel chapters 5-7, Jesus is urging his disciples to a counter-cultural lifestyle. How does Jesus beginning prayer follow in this tradition?
- Jesus teaches this prayer in the midst of his community, not individually. What does Jesus action mean to us today?

***How is your life touched?***

- When you think of God as “Father” what comes to your mind?
- Can you imagine persons who might be turned off by addressing God as “Father”?
- What are some negative pictures of God that are rejected by Jesus when Jesus addressed God as His Father?

***What is God’s invitation to you?***

- Jesus invites you to pray in community and individually following the phrases and form of His prayer. What one thing can you do this week that will help improve your prayer life? How can your Lifegroup help you?

***What can you pray for?***

Pray that Chilson Hills will be a joyous, faithful, praying community of God’s incredible resurrection power celebrating Jesus Christ’s transforming hope and love in order to change our world for the better!