



Audio Disc: # 9



Visual Disc: # 6

Artist: Matt Maher
Album: Empty and Beautiful

Theme:
Worship

Devotional **10 AS IT IS IN HEAVEN** MATT MAHER

"We need to be praying for His will to be done in our lives, so that we might bring glory to Him here on earth as He is also glorified in heaven. We need to do things His way, instead of selfishly doing our own things to satisfy our own desires." (www.allaboutprayer.org)

1 Start Up

To begin your meeting, present the group with a list of 10 things: personality traits, people, foods, or anything you can imagine. Then instruct each person to privately prioritize their list in order of most important (1) to least important (10). Make sure they don't share their list with anyone! Many will probably ask for more direction, but have them compile their lists entirely on their own. Set a time limit (one minute is a good amount), and when time is up, divide the students into groups of four or five to share their lists with each other. When they've had a few minutes to discuss, ask if any group has all the items prioritized in the same order. If not (which is likely), tell them to quickly get in new groups and compare their lists again. If you still don't have any groups with a perfect match, have them switch another time. You can do this as long as you want, and you can vary the way they switch each time. For instance, have students who do match up stay together, and let the others yell out questions to each other as they search for a new group. End the game when you have at least three students with the same list, or when they're ready for a mutiny! After the game is over, gather everyone into a large group and share with them your own personal list. If anyone has the same list as you do, give them a prize (a Matt Maher CD is a great choice).

2 Get Focused

In his book, "The Purpose-Driven Youth Ministry," Doug Fields describes worship as "giving God the worth He deserves." It is His WORTH-SHIP. As we pray, we learn even more about how God deserves our worship and praise. As we talk to Him, we must come to an agreement that He ALONE knows what is best for us—even when we might be tempted to disagree. The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) teaches us to no longer search for our own "kingdom," but to let

His Will be done, "on Earth as it is in Heaven." Share the following points with your group, adding your own illustrations and anecdotes to make this devotion personal to them.

Matthew 6:5-13

1) God wants to hear from the REAL YOU. (v. 5-6)

God doesn't need to hear your voice just for the sake of hearing it. He WANTS to hear from you! He doesn't need us—rather, we need Him. We don't have to have a formula that allows us to approach Him because He knows us already.

2) God wants to hear our REAL HEARTS. (v. 6-7)

Since God already knows us, He knows our hearts as well. He knows what our genuine concerns and real motives really are. We don't have to try to impress Him with our wording—rather, we can come before Him honestly and simply...in our own language!

3) God wants to take FIRST PLACE in our lives and desires. (v. 8-9)

We must choose to petition God, to bring Him all glory and honor and give Him complete control. We must be willing to pray that HIS will be done (over our own) here on Earth, "as it is in Heaven."

3 Wind Down

As you conclude, hang a copy (prepared before your meeting) of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) in front of your group, but list them out of order. Have your students work together as a group to put them in the correct order. Point out to them the ease with which they could put these Commandments in order, because they have one comprehensive instruction guide: GOD and HIS WORD.