

The Lord's Prayer

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 March 6, 2022

“This, Then, is How You Should Pray”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as you rule over all in heaven and on earth, so rule our time together by your Spirit. In our reading, in our discussing, and in our praying, direct our minds and hearts toward you, that we may praise your glorious name in all we say and do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’

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INTRODUCTION

Many Christians throughout the world pray the Lord’s Prayer at least once a week in worship. But too often, this prayer is said from memory as a worship ritual without knowing what the prayer really means. In this series, we are examining the Lord’s Prayer to get a better understanding of its meaning so that when we pray it we will connect with God like never before. So what does the phrase “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name” actually mean?

The phrase “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name” reminds us that God is big and glorious and created the cosmos, but at the same time Jesus says we can address him as a parent and he is as close as the air that we breath. In the last part of this phrase, we are asking for God’s name to be hallowed, not ours. And we are asking God to hallow his name through us.

QUESTIONS

1. When did you learn the Lord’s Prayer? Is it an important part of worship for you?
2. How often do you pray?
3. Are there subjects or wishes you tend to avoid praying about, for fear God isn’t interested or that God might disapprove of your concern? How secure are you in talking to God in prayer about everything that matters to you?
4. In what ways can taking your needs, hurts and concerns to the heavenly parent to whom Jesus addressed the Lord’s Prayer help you to grow beyond any painful gaps in the human parenting you received?
5. How does Jesus’ use of an intimate (though respectful) family term to address God challenge the idea that we must be rigidly formal when we pray?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week include the Lord’s Prayer in your prayer time. Focus on what you learned about the first phrase during your prayer.