

Teach Us to Pray: “The Lord’s Prayer”

Matthew 6:9-13

Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Discussion

- Who have you heard pray that sounds really “good at it”? What is it about the way they pray or the words they use that you like?
- Describe a time when you didn’t have the words or were unsure what to pray for. What were you praying for and why were you at a loss for words?

Read Matthew 6:9-13.

- Jesus introduces prayer by saying, “This, then, is *how* you should pray.” Notice that he did not say, “this is *what* you should pray.” Andy said that Jesus gave us a model prayer that can show us how to pray when we don’t know what to say.
 - o How does it help you to have a model to base prayer on?
 - o Why is it a good practice to give praise and adoration to God before jumping into our personal requests?

Consider each of the 5 verses below that make up the Lord’s Prayer.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

- One aspect of God’s Fatherhood is that he knows what we need before we even ask him (verse 8). Does this change the way you ask God for things versus how you ask other people for things?
- What are the ways that we keep God’s name holy?
- Andy said there are some parts of God’s kingdom which have already been brought to us and we have access to now through Jesus. What are they?
- What is the thing you long to see most when God’s kingdom is “fully here” – that is, in eternal life?
- What kinds of things can be our “daily bread”? How have you seen God provide for you? How has this deepened your trust in him, or your relationship to him?
- Author Bryan Chapell said,

“Jesus teaches us to pray ‘Forgive us...for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.’ Perfectly fulfilling the second part of this petition must NOT be considered a condition of the first. If God pardons us only after we have rightly, adequately, or fully forgiven those who sin against us, then no one would ever have God’s full pardon...We are not able to forgive in the same way that God forgives us – we have too little ability to erase our memories and too much resentment

etched in our hearts...Our forgiveness is never as complete or compassionate as his.” (From
“Praying Backwards: Transform your Prayer Life by Starting in Jesus Name)

- Have you had difficulty in forgiving someone? Does this quote help you, encourage you?

If you're comfortable, close by having one person recite each line of the Lord's Prayer, and pause to allow each member of the group to pray their specific requests in this area.