



THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.

Through Easter, we will be focusing on The Lord's Prayer. No other words of the Bible are spoken more often than the 65 words we call the Lord's Prayer. Countless times every day, in the worship of the church and in the personal devotion of many Christians. The prayer is sung, recited in unison, mumbled mindlessly at times and at others, chosen out through sods of pain or remorse. For two thought years Christians on every continent, and in every language, have lifted this prayer to God.

Connect & Grow :

Consider these prompts with your community group or family this week.

- Do you have The Lord's Prayer memorized? If so, recite the version of The Lord's Prayer you typically pray. If you have not yet memorized the prayer, do so during this series.
- What name of God do you typically begin prayer with? Consider other options.
- What exactly was Jesus trying to communicate to use when he spoke this prayer?
- Did he intend that his followers would simply repeat the prayer? Or was he giving us a patterns to follow? Both?
- What are the essential elements of prayer?
- What does it mean to address God as Father? How does this make you feel? Talk about a positive quality you saw in your father or that you imagine in an ideal father?
- What character trait in a father is the most important to you?
- Read Matthew 6:5-8. What kind of dysfunctional prayer does Jesus warn about?
- Discuss the difference between private and public prayer. What does Jesus have to say about it? Which are you most comfortable with?
- Matthew 6:7 warns against repetitive prayers yet repeating the same prayer (such as The Lord's Prayer) is common and even encouraged in Christian circles. How can you make repeating The Lord's Prayer spiritually enriching?
- The word Jesus uses to call on the Father is the common word that children in Jesus' day used to address their father - the word Abba, meaning "Dearest Father." What emotions do you feel as you call God "Dearest Father"? Consider other verses where God is addressed as Abba (Galatians 4:6, Romans 8:15-16).
- Why does Jesus instruct us to address God as ourFather rather than myFather? How do you typically pray?
- Do most of your prayers emphasize God's gentle presence with us or God's awesome majesty (Our Father in heaven)? What can you do to bring more balance in your approach to God in prayer?

Go : Consider during these on your own this week.

- For the next week, address your prayers to Abba. It may seem strange at first, but think about how Jesus used this word to address his own dear Father.