



THE LORD'S PRAYER

**YOUR KINGDOM COME,
YOUR WILL
BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN.**

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, choked out through sobs of pain or remorse. For two thousand 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.

- Discuss the message today. What stood out to you? Did you learn anything new?
- In your own words, describe "God's Kingdom."
- To pray "Your kingdom come" is to ask God the Father to expand his rule over the territory of our hearts and lives. To pray "Your will be done" is to express our willingness to submit to his rule whatever the cost. Do you actually want to pray for these things in your life?
- Do your prayers (in public or in private) usually reflect your will or God's will? How can you tell the difference?
- What aspects of your personal kingdom are difficult to submit to God's rule and authority? Why? Are some things easier than others?
- Read Matthew 25:31-46. Jesus talked about those who will enter his future kingdom and those who won't. What six actions does the passage say will be used as a basis for judgement? What thoughts and feelings surface for you as you read about the sheep and the goats? Do you think Jesus is teaching that we gain entrance into his kingdom by good works rather than faith? Explain. If these actions are the marks of kingdom-seekers, what will change in your life as you pray, "Your kingdom come"?
- In heaven God's name is honored and his will is carried out fervently and willingly. Our prayer is that the same would be true on earth. What resources do you have available that you can use to do God's will toward someone in need this week?

Go : Consider these prompts during your chair time this week.

- Take each phrase of the Lord's Prayer, one at a time and hold it in your mind. Then pray for those things that fall under that category. For example, 'Your Kingdom Come' may prompt you to pray for the peace of the world. Repeat it slowly in the rhythm of your breathing. This may seem tedious in our fast paced, multi-tasking world, but it may be exactly what we need. Try it on your next car trip when you are by yourself. Turn off the radio and repeat over and over.
- Take the clauses one by one and make each your prayer for the day. For example: Sunday = Our Father; Monday = Hallowed be thy name; Tuesday = Thy Kingdom come; Wednesday = Give us this day; Thursday = Forgive us our sins; Friday = Deliver us from Evil; and, Saturday = The Kingdom, the power, and the glory. Use the clause as your retreat for the day that you can step into at any moment. It becomes your lens for the day.