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**Scripture: Teach Us to Pray- Yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory Forever. Amen**

Today, we'll be wrapping up our series on the Lord's Prayer. It's been such a meaningful start to the year to learn and reflect on these powerful words, given to us by Jesus himself.

Next year, I think when I look back on the month of January, there are two words that will come to mind: PRAYER and COLD. The temperatures were unbelievably low this week. I was born and raised in Sudbury, Ontario, so you would think I'd be a little more prepared to handle the plummeting temperatures. But I was genuinely horrified to see the forecast this week. Up North they definitely had it worse, with the temperature dropping to a chilling -38 degrees. But the 'feels like' temperature was minus 50! That makes the -25 low that we hit this week seem almost tropical! But my Northern Ontario roots did not come through for me this week. Just the thought of heading out into such extreme cold made it difficult to even get up in the mornings. To be fair, I'm not much a morning person to begin with. My husband, Imraan, pops awake with ease, and to me, it's like a super power that he has.

I, on the other hand, have started setting multiple alarms to ensure I get up. It's interesting because sometimes I become so used to the sound of the alarm that I can sleep right through it. It's something that can happen when something becomes too familiar. Our brain learns how to tune it out.

For anyone who regularly prays the Lord's Prayer, and for those who grew up reciting it in school or in church, a similar thing can happen. The words can become so familiar to us, that in a sense, we sleep right through them. We can say each line without our minds and hearts being truly Awake.

I hope this series on the Lord's Prayer has helped us all to Awaken....

Awaken to the power of this prayer that we have been given.

Awaken to the immense privilege it is to come before our heavenly father in prayer.

Awaken to the incredible ways that prayer can bring us to a place of rest and reliance on God, while also changing us and moving us to action.

We've been going through the prayer line by line, and today, we'll be focusing in on the final line: For yours is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, Forever, Amen!

These are powerful words, and I'm excited to be talking about them today, but there is a bit of a hurdle we have to get past first. I have loved the way we have been learning about the great depth of meaning behind Jesus's teaching on prayer. The challenging thing about this last line of the prayer is that it might not actually be part of the prayer that Jesus taught.

The Lord's Prayer can be found in 2 places in the bible – Matthew 6, and a shorter version of the prayer in Luke 11. In Luke, this last line is nowhere to be found. But, even in the extended edition of the prayer that Matthew gives us, depending on the translation of the bible that you are using, you'll find that this last line may or may not be included. And to know why, you'll have to check the fine print. If you have your bible with you, or if you have your phone, open up your bible app to Matthew 6:9-13. If your translation doesn't include the extra line, look at the footnotes for verse 13, and you'll see something like: "some manuscripts add "for yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever, amen". And if you're looking at a translation that DOES include these final words, you'll also see a footnote at the bottom of the page that acknowledges that this line is sometimes omitted. To understand the reason for this, we need

to think for a moment about how these words of scripture have come to us; how it is that we can sit here today, and read the very words that Jesus spoke almost 2000 years ago.

It began with Jesus, who said and did remarkable things. Eye witnesses saw and heard these things, remembered them, and shared these memories with others. This is called the Oral tradition, and it was effective because the people in Jesus's time were very skilled at remembering and sharing stories that were an important part of their history. At the time, this would have been a predominant way that the good news of Jesus was shared...by word of mouth. Early on, there were also some people who wrote down brief accounts of things that Jesus said and did, and those documents became important sources for the authors of the four gospels. So the Gospel writers of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John drew on both the oral tradition and the written sources to write their accounts of Jesus' life. These accounts would have been written in Ancient Greek. They became very important to the early church, and so eventually people made copies of the Gospels in order to share them with the world.

Now, just pause for a moment and imagine the task. It's so easy for us to share and replicate information these days. If you come across something interesting or compelling, all it takes is one or two clicks and you can forward it, send someone a link, or comment, like, and share for others to see. And maybe it's too easy, because sometimes we don't give much thought to the value, importance, or sometimes even the truthfulness of the information we share. It's how misinformation spreads, and it's so easy for this to happen because sharing information doesn't require very much thought or effort. It's easy. But when it comes to these ancient accounts of the life of Jesus, it wasn't so easy. No internet. No computers. No photocopiers. No printing presses. Not even a pencil or a ball point pen. Just some ink, scratched onto homemade scrolls of paper with a reed. Scribes would have had to carefully and painstakingly copy each word by hand. And they did. The gospels were copied and recopied again and again for centuries. You can quickly appreciate that these texts were deeply important to those who were copying them. That they felt that the manuscripts they were creating were worth the immense effort it took to make

them. Amazingly, over 5,000 complete or fragmented Greek manuscripts of the New Testament still survive today, more than any other ancient work of literature. It was a story worth sharing.

But you might be wondering what this has to do with the ending of the Lord's Prayer. What's important for us to know as we consider Matthew 6 today is that the oldest Greek manuscripts that we have of this passage, do not include this last line of the Lord's Prayer, while later Greek manuscripts do. This tells us that the line was likely added, not removed, over time. Unfortunately, we can't know with certainty if this line was commentary added by some ancient scribe, or words that Jesus intended to be included.

What we do know is that this kind of declaration of the power and glory of God is one that we find over and over again throughout scripture:

*1 Chronicles 29:10-13, King David prays:*

*"Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all...."*

*Revelation 7:12, words of heavenly worship declare:*

*"Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"*

*1 Timothy 1:17*

*"Now to the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour, and glory for ever and ever amen"*

*Jude 1:25*

*To the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen!*

These are just a few of the many examples I could share. Whenever something repeats again and again throughout scripture, this tells us that it is important. We should pay attention. In this case, scripture is showing us that there is something important about

taking time to affirm who God is, and declaring what place He should have in our lives. When we do this, we are joining with the voices of Christians throughout history, including the early church and the authors of the New Testament. And, we are also in good company when we include these words as we pray the Lord's Prayer.

John Calvin, a French theologian, pastor, and reformer during the Protestant Revolution believed that including this line at the end of the Lord's Prayer is so appropriate to this place that it ought not to be omitted". Tim Keller, an American pastor, theologian, and author writes that after "descending into our needs, troubles, and limitations" there is value in "returning to the truth of God's complete sufficiency", and N.T. Wright, a leading English New Testament scholar, has written that "it is actually inconceivable, within the Jewish praying styles of his day, that Jesus would have intended the prayer to stop simply with 'deliver us from evil.'" Something like this must have been intended from the beginning."

A few weeks ago I was reflecting on that very line: Deliver us from evil. I was troubled to think about the existence of evil; to reflect on all the terrible things that are happening in the world. The scope of evil in our world was never clearer to me than this past fall. I had the opportunity to travel with a team of people from North Park to participate in International Justice Mission's Liberate Conference. It was inspiring to hear of the incredible work that IJM is doing across the globe. Their mission is to end slavery in our life time, and they are working to accomplish this by rescuing victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring survivors and strengthening justice systems. The stories of liberation that were shared were powerful reminders that God, through his people, is actively redeeming and renewing our broken world. But these stories were also a disturbing reminder of the existence of evil. Evil that would force entire families to work without pay and under terrible conditions in rice mills and brick kilns. Evil that would foster corrupt police forces that thrive on the oppression and abuse of the very people they are called to protect. Evil that would grab land from widows, leaving them and their children destitute. And evil that would exploit children in unspeakable ways, or trap them

in a life of hard and dangerous labour on fishing boats.

This kind of evil can sometimes feel far removed from us. Things that are happening in other places, far from where we are. But this kind of evil exists here too. And I'm not just talking about the ways that our economy and our way of life in North America benefit from the oppression and exploitation of those who are weak and vulnerable. This past week, The Christian Churches Network of London gathered Christian leaders from across the city to learn about the human trafficking that is happening right here in London.

Our Father, Deliver Us From Evil.

I have to admit, thinking about all the evil our world needs saving from can begin to feel very overwhelming, and insurmountable, and frightening, and it isn't a comfortable place to remain for very long. Our prayers can feel so insufficient; like very tiny drops of water in a vast ocean of pain and struggle. As I reflected on all of this, I became eager to move on. So, I turned my attention to the final line of the prayer. In that moment, if you had given me a choice between contemplating the brokenness of our world, or reflecting on the kingdom, power and glory of God, I'd be inclined to go with option B:

For Yours is The Kingdom, the Power, and The Glory, forever, AMEN.

These words invite us to take a step back, out of the mess and confusion and pain of our circumstances, to remember who God is, and to reaffirm his place in our hearts. They speak important truths about who God is, and I think there are many different ways that God helps us understand what they mean. For me, most often it is through observing the breathtaking beauty and intricate design of God's creation that I find I can grasp a sense of God's power and glory.

A couple of Sundays ago, I stepped outside to head to North Park just as the sun was rising, and I saw a surprising sight: the glimmer of a rainbow. It was definitely not raining, in fact, it was a very cold, frozen, morning, and as I paused to take it in, I realized this wasn't a normal rainbow that I was

looking at. To the left and the right of the rising sun, were these rainbow-edged bursts of light shooting up from the horizon, and the edge of a complete arc swept across the sky. The light was so bright, it looked like 3 suns were rising. I had never seen anything like it before. When I arrived at North Park and got talking to some people in the lobby, I was surprised to learn that this breathtaking display of colour and light is commonly referred to as a Sundog. They appear in the sky during periods of extremely cold weather, where, in just the right conditions, “ice crystals form hexagonal prisms and reflect the light creating this effect” (Global news’ weather expert Mike Koncan). As I contemplated what I had seen, Psalm 19 came to mind:

*The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

God’s creation is so intricately and beautifully designed, that in the thick of a deep freeze, when we might feel at our lowest and long to give up and retreat back to the warmth of our beds, the very cold that plagues us is also the cold that can create the perfect conditions to bring about something profoundly beautiful, as ice crystals form and prisms align to reflect light and hope into our lives. It is no accident – not a random occurrence, but a perfectly designed masterpiece by the creator of the universe. Often I find God’s creation speaks of greater truths about God and humanity, and I couldn’t help but wonder what difficult and painful conditions our world is experiencing that God might be at work in, perfectly aligning things in ways we don’t understand, to bring about something unexpected, and beautiful.

I don’t say that lightly, because I know that there are painful things in this world that we simply don’t have answers for. And I know that there are painful things in your lives, that you are waiting and longing for God to change. It isn’t easy to keep our eyes open; to remain awake to the pain that exists in our world, without losing faith in the goodness of our Almighty God. But this week, I discovered again, how necessary it is to remain awake to the truth of who God is in the midst of it all. After sitting uncomfortably with the reality of evil in the world, and then spending some time reflecting on the kingdom, power, and glory of God, I decided to

read the prayer through once more. This time, I read:

Deliver us from evil for yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever, amen.

In that moment, I didn’t need to choose whether to focus on the evil and brokenness in our world, or the kingdom, power, and glory of God, I could pray about the evil in our world *in light of* the Kingdom, power, and glory of God. For me, it was a Prism Sunrise moment (I like that better than Sundog, I hope you don’t mind...), a moment where I could stand on the earth, present in the cold reality of evil and suffering, while at the same time, grasping a sense of the greatness of God. Reflecting on his Kingship, his power, and his glory, gave me a very different perspective – replacing a sense of despair and fear with a sense of hope. Hope that as God’s Kingdom continues to take hold in my life, and as His Kingdom continues to come in our world, He will continue restoring what is broken. He will continue to be present with us. And the day WILL come where

*Revelation 21:4).*

*“he will wipe every tear from our eyes, no more death, or mourning, or crying, or pain”*

God’s Kingdom fully come, on earth as it is in heaven. The Kingdom of God is an important idea for us to understand more fully. It’s another example of something that is repeated many times throughout scripture. The Greek word for Kingdom, *basilea*, is found 119 times throughout the gospels, and the Kingdom of God is an essential part of the Good News of Jesus. It was central to his teaching, but not easily understood by those who heard him speak of it, and I think it isn’t always easily understood by us today. When we think of the word Kingdom, we often think of it as a place. A location ruled by a King. But this concept of the Kingdom of God found throughout the gospels, and in fact throughout all of the bible, from Genesis right through to Revelation, is not so much a place that we go to, as it is something that we experience. The word Kingdom refers to royal power, kingship, dominion, or rule. So Kingdom might better be translated as Reign. The Reign of God. **And the Reign of God exists anywhere that God is King.**

The kingdom Jesus was ushering in was the Reign of a loving Father, whose power is made strong in weakness, and whose glory is expressed through mercy and grace. It was not the kind of Rule that the people were expecting. The kingdoms they had experienced were marked by corrupt power and the relentless pursuit of glory that brought oppression and suffering to the world, but God's kingdom would be marked by an outpouring of His power and glory that would bring freedom from that oppression.

In Matthew's gospel, the idea that Jesus had come to usher in this new Kingdom was first introduced at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

*Matthew 4:17* tells us that:

*"Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

You might have noticed that Matthew has used the term Kingdom of Heaven, rather than the Kingdom of God. It's a phrase unique to Matthew's gospel that sometimes causes confusion, but when Matthew says "the Kingdom of Heaven", he is not talking about the place we go when we die. Remember, the Kingdom is something we experience, not a place that we go to. Matthew was writing to a predominantly Jewish audience, and in Judaism it was customary to avoid calling God by name. This is why he often used the term Kingdom of Heaven, instead of the Kingdom of God. In both cases, these phrases refer to the Reign of God, perfectly realized in heaven, but now beginning to take hold on earth through Jesus.

He used parables to teach about the Kingdom, and they often revealed this unexpected and upside-down nature of God's reign. Jesus taught that God's Kingdom would come about in surprising ways. It would not grow and flourish in the way and in the time that we expect, and it would require patience, faithfulness, and endurance. A tiny mustard seed would eventually grow into the largest bush in the garden. The wheat would grow alongside the weeds until the day of harvest to ensure that all would be saved who could be saved. A small amount of yeast, dispersed throughout the dough, would in time, cause it to rise.

We often long for things to be done our way and in our time. But part of accepting God's reign in our lives requires us to accept that his timeline is not ours, and his ways are not easily understood. Because we see only in part, but God has the full scope of all eternity in His view.

For Yours is the Kingdom, The Power, and The Glory, **Forever**. This word, Forever, captures a sense of the eternal nature of God's Kingdom. In heaven, God's reign is complete. His Kingship is fully established. Here on earth, seeds of God's Kingdom are planted and growing, but the Kingdom is not fully realized. All at once, the Kingdom of God is now and forever, but not yet. This is true of our world, but it is also true of our hearts. We are fully His, yet it is difficult to surrender ourselves fully to him. To let go of control. To trust him completely. And despite our best intentions, surrendering our hearts to God doesn't come easily to us. The apostle Paul said it well when he wrote:

*Romans 7:18b-19*

*"I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep doing"*

Is God King over every inch of our lives? Are we living for Him? Are we seeking to love and serve him with everything we have? Often, whether we mean to or not, it turns out that we have divided loyalties...

*Matthew 6:21*

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"*

Think about the resources that you have – your time, your energy, your attention, your possessions, and your money. To find where your heart is, think about what gets the first and the best of your resources, and what things you hold onto with too firm a grip. What has your heart these days?

Often, even when we are seeking God fervently, we are ultimately concerned about how God fits into our story. We pour through scripture, daily devotions, sermons, and bible studies, to learn how knowing him and following him are going to change our lives for the better. I'll pause here to say

that I do believe a life in Christ is far better than a life lived without Him. But, that is not what we should be focused on. **“What’s important is not how God fits into our story, but how we fit into His”.** (David Timms – Living the Lord’s Prayer).

Part of God’s plan is to work through His people, to bring about His Kingdom here on earth. We become Kingdom Bringers when we allow God to Reign in our lives, when we proclaim the Good News of Jesus, and when we live out the important Kingdom values of justice, mercy, and humility that are at the heart of God’s Kingdom. It may sound like an overwhelming and impossible task when we consider all the need, all the brokenness, all the darkness in our world. But it is important to remember that none of it will be changed by our own strength. It is God’s work in the world, and His work will be done through His power, not ours.

Perhaps these words from Mother Teresa, who worked in the streets of Calcutta, caring for the poor, can also help us. She wrote:

*“I never look at the masses as my responsibility. I look only at the individual. I can love only one person at a time. I can feed only one person at a time. Just one, one, one. You get closer to Christ by coming closer to each other. As Jesus said, “Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do it to me” So you begin...I begin. I picked up one person...The whole work is only a drop in the ocean. But if we don’t put the drop in, the ocean would be one drop less. Same thing for you. Same thing in your family. Same thing in the church where you go. Just begin...one, one, one!”*

So what is God asking of us? Sometimes He is asking for big steps of faith that take great courage. But often, He’s asking us to simply take faithful steps of obedience that reflect His love to the world and show that He is first in our hearts. One moment at a time...one, one, one...until the Lord reigns over every inch of our lives.

**As He calls us forward, what will it take for us to give a wholehearted YES to God and his kingdom?**

This question brings us to the final word of the prayer: AMEN.

If you have ever had the unfortunate experience of being extremely hungry, while also having to sit through a very long-winded prayer at the dinner table, you may have experienced the word Amen as a punctuation mark. Amen. Finally, they’re finished and I can eat! But the word AMEN means so much more than “I’m finished”. We also sometimes give an Amen when someone says something that we agree with. “I’m so grateful the temperature is above 0 today. ”Amen to that!”. But the word Amen means so much more than “I agree”.

It is a word so important, and so rich with meaning, that it defies translation. In the same way words of worship like Hosanna, and Alleluia, have been kept in the bible and not translated from the original Hebrew, the meaning of AMEN is so profound and complex, there is no other word that can fully express it.

In a simple way, it means YES, and giving our YES to God is at the very heart of how we allow Him to Reign in our lives. More than an affirmation that we believe, it is a YES that calls us to action. Yes, I believe. Yes, I will follow. Yes, I will live out the Kingdom here on earth.

This yes isn’t easy, and often, NO feels much more comfortable and safe. Sometimes, we want to give God only a partial yes, but Amen doesn’t allow for this. We don’t say “AMEN!, except...” It is a word that expresses our wholehearted surrender to who God is and what He has called us to.

The start of the Lord’s Prayer begins with Our Father, and it reminds us of the parent-child relationship that we have with God. I remember when my kids were really little, one of the first words they learned was “no”, and they LOVED to say no. It was like second nature to them. They each went through a phase, as I think most kids do, where they simply answered no to every question we asked. Come here please. No! Would you like me to come to you? No! I have a snack here for you. No! For a brief period of time, they were so into the word no, that they risked missing out on something good. Do you want a cookie? No! Wait...Yes!!!!

How often have we instinctively said no to God, not realizing what we were missing?

Something else I know about my kids is that they always long for my YES. In their young lives, they have heard my NO a lot. Sometimes it is a no to keep them safe. Sometimes it is a no to help them be healthy, or make wise choices. Sometimes, it is simply a no because what they are asking isn't possible.

But, there was a book that we took out of the library once called "Yes Day". The title probably gives it away: It was about a family who made one day a year "Yes Day". And the little boy in the story could expect that everything he asked for, his parents would say yes to. Can I have pizza for breakfast? Yes! Can I eat lunch outside? Yes! and we have a water fight? Yes! My kids were delighted with this book. They loved the idea of having a day where they would hear nothing but yes from me.

Just like them, *we* are eager to hear God say "YES".  
**But how often do we assert our NO to Him, while longing for His YES to us?**

Despite our wayward hearts, the truth is, God HAS given us his Yes. AMEN is not just our commitment to live in the YES of all that God has called us to. It is also an affirmation of God's Yes to us, because when we speak the word AMEN, we are affirming the truth of who God is and what He has done for us. AMEN. Yes, God is faithful. Yes, He cares for us. Yes, we belong to Him. Yes, He hears us. And Yes, He will answer.

**AMEN is our YES to God, and God's YES to us.**  
But it is more, even, than that.

Revelation 3:14 uses the word AMEN to communicate an even more profound meaning for the word. It says:

*Revelation 3:14*

*"These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation"*

In this verse, the AMEN is a person, and that person, is JESUS. Jesus is God's YES to us, His answer to our prayers, and the fulfillment of all of His promises.

*2 Corinthians 1:20*

*"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God."*

As we pray the Lord's Prayer, this final declaration, "For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever AMEN" affirms that God can and will respond to the brokenness of our world, and that it is JESUS who is the ultimate answer to each and every line of the Prayer.

Because of Jesus, – We can fully embrace God as Our heavenly Father, and stand before him in awe of his holiness. (*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...*)

Because of Jesus – we can become Kingdom-bringers here on earth, as it is in heaven, spreading the love of Christ to those God places in our path. (*Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done, on earth as it is in heaven...*)

Because of Jesus - we can live lives of reliance on HIM, the Bread of Life, trusting in His daily provision, and believing that He is able to meet our needs. (*Give Us today our daily bread...*)

Because of Jesus – we can experience his incredible forgiveness and extend it outwards to others, releasing them AND US from chains of hurt, anger, and regret. (*And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors...*)

Because of Jesus - we can face the trials and the evil in this world, knowing that God is present and at work in the midst of it all in ways we can't yet fully know, (*And leads us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...*)

And because of Jesus – we can take our place as Kingdom-Bringers, shining the light of God's love into our darkened world. (*For yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever....*)

**AMEN. Our yes to God, in response to His YES to us, empowered by the great AMEN, Jesus.**

What amazing words to declare....Our God Reigns. His kingdom has arrived. But what will it take for God's Reign to be fully realized in our lives? We get pulled in so many directions, and it can seem like we have to constantly redirect our hearts back to Him. And we look at the world around us, and feel the immense need for Christ, it's hard to know where to start. It begins, not by relying on our own strength to make a difference, but by coming to God in prayer. Because the kingdom won't come through our own strength or will, but through God, and the work of His spirit in our lives.

Maybe your YES to God in this season starts by committing yourself to prayer.

We began this series reflection on the first word of the Lord's Prayer – OUR. It's a reminder that none of us are on this journey alone. We have a community of believers who are learning and growing together. And there are many opportunities coming up to go deeper in prayer together.

- This Tuesday, Paul is teaching an elective at 1750 Huron called My Daily Quiet Time.
- This Thursday our Elective on the Vertical Habits of prayer will be starting. It will be a great opportunity to learn and practice some new ways of engaging prayer in your life.
- In March, Matt Loveday will be running a webinar on how to Pray for your Children.
- And the Sunday before Easter, there will be a Church Wide prayer and worship night focused on understanding God's Blessing.

Don't let this series end without making a commitment to take an intentional step to expand your prayer life in 2019. Maybe right here, right now, is the time for you to take your next step. Your prayer team will be here at the front and would love to pray for you – about literally anything that's weighing on your heart.

We have the prayer hut up, so come forward and add your words of prayer. As a staff, we're going to gather them up in a few weeks' time and spend some time praying for you all! As we close today, let's give God a resounding AMEN!

Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever...AMEN!

## *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.  
Forgive us our debts,  
As we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.*

*For yours is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory, forever, Amen*

*A translation based on Matthew 6:9-13  
and the original Greek text.*

## Points to Ponder

### *Teach Us to Pray*

*Yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory  
Forever. Amen*

**With a friend, your family or in your small group, discuss the following questions.**

1. As we've gone through this series on the Lord's Prayer, has your prayer life changed in any way? What do you find difficult about prayer? In what ways are you feeling encouraged about prayer?
2. Does praying the Lord's Prayer in light of the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory of God change your perspective of the prayer in any way?
3. Does anything hold you back from allowing God to fully reign in your life (ie: what stand in the way of fully trusting and following Jesus)?
4. Consider the following quote: "What's important is not how God fits into our story, but how we fit His" (David Timms – Living the Lord's Prayer). We often look to the Bible to understand how following Jesus will improve our lives. In what ways is it easy or difficult to make the shift that David Timms is recommending – to stop focusing on what God will do for us, and start wondering what we can do for God? What can you do to help advance the Kingdom of God?
5. When we say "Amen," we are giving an emphatic YES to God, in response to his YES to us. In what ways have you experienced God's YES in your life? In what ways can you express your YES back to Him?
6. Reflecting back on the sermon series, "Teach Us To Pray," what stands out most in your mind? Is there a particular sermon in the series that was most meaningful to you? A line of the prayer that has really taken root in your life? Did you learn something new?