

Lord's Prayer Week Three
Discussion Questions:

1. In Day Three of “The Universe in 57 Words”, (visit <https://renovare.org/books/the-universe-in-57-words> to download a digital copy) author Carolyn Arends asks on page 21, “If the kingdom has come near in Matthew 4, why does Jesus teach us to pray for it to come in Matthew 6?” Read Matthew 4:12-17 and Matthew 6:5-15. On page 23 she says, “As real and available as God’s kingdom is, there are still, for now, competing kingdoms.” What competing kingdoms operate in our individual lives and communities? How is praying the Lord’s prayer a way to align our individual kingdoms and corporate kingdoms under God’s kingdom?
2. In the third message of the Lord’s Prayer series, Central’s Pastoral Intern Justin Arnold teaches that one way God’s kingdom comes happens when we demonstrate God’s love by feeding the hungry. How does feeding the hungry show God’s kingdom come, God’s will being done on earth as it is in heaven?
3. Read Exodus 16. In his message, Justin reminds us that God provided quail and manna for the Israelites to eat, but He gave them instructions only to gather what they needed for the day. God wanted to know if they would rely on Him and follow His instructions. Last week, we contemplated how praying the Lord’s Prayer is to be obedient to the Father’s will and trust His provision. How do we see this so clearly demonstrated in Exodus 16? How is praying the Lord’s Prayer a prayer to trust God first and foremost?
4. Justin opened his message this week reminding us that Christians don’t always agree, but that we have foundations of our faith we agree on. On page 27 of the study book, we are reminded that to pray “Thy will be done” is a way to come together in unity for what God desires over what we desire as individuals. What situation in your life do you need to come together with another Christian in unity over God’s will over your own?
5. At Central every week we say we are a church who Loves God and Loves People. How do we live a life of love for God and people that demonstrates Jesus’ character? As we consider serving others, if we serve with frustration, anger, controlling tendencies, impatience, and judgement are we living out the Lord’s Prayer in the way Jesus teaches? Why is it important to live in reliance upon the Holy Spirit so the Holy Spirit’s fruit is displayed in our lives and in how we serve others?
6. Are you aware of an area in which your will is not aligned with God’s? Spend time in prayer. Possibly use the Palms Down, Palms Up Prayer explained on page 31 of the study book as your guide.