

Below as in Above Our Father who is in Heaven

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. – Matthew 6:9 (ESV)

“And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” -Luke 11:9-13 (ESV)

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.” -Romans 8:14-17 (ESV)

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Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- How do you like to pray? Out loud, with your family, alone or in your head, or in a journal? Do you pray as often as you would like?
- Do you think how we pray is important?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read Matthew 6:5-9, In what way should you not pray? Why do you think Jesus is telling them this?
- What does it mean that our Father’s Name is Holy? “Hallow” (If available open Luther’s Small Catechism to the Lord’s Prayer under the first petition or Large Catechism First petition).

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- Look back at Matthew 6:5-9. Do you think God cares about how long a prayer is? What do you think He cares about when it comes to prayer?
- What does it mean to you that we can call God Father?
- Are there other gods in your life? How does this first petition also keeps us in line with the first commandment?
- What do you think our Father wants to hear from us?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- How can your prayer life be more intentional?
- How can you keep the Name of God Holy this week?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. What’s a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How’s your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What’s something you’d like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.