



Prayers God Always Says Yes To - Week 3 June 20-21, 2020 - Tim Harlow

This week, Pastor Tim taught on Jesus' most recognized prayer, often called the "Our Father." What does it mean for God to be Father anyway?

NOTE: We are sending this out before the services so you and your families can spend time watching service and discussing the Study Guide together! If you're looking for some virtual ways to connect with your Small Group, check out [Zoom](#) or [Google Hangouts](#)!

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. This weekend is Father's Day - take a moment to talk about your best memory of your father or of someone who filled the spot of a father-figure in your life.

2. Take a moment before you jump into this study and ask everyone how they're doing these days. Sometimes we get so focused on what we're doing we forget to talk about how we ARE.

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, remember the big picture of this week's teaching:

- Jesus teaches us to pray in a way that reminds us God is a good Father that give good gifts to His children.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE: Zephaniah 3:17, Matthew 6:9-13, 7:7-11; Luke 11:1, 1 John 3:1

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this week's message that resonated with you. What made it stick out to you?
2. Talk about your experience up to this point with the "Our Father" or the "Lord's Prayer." For example, who taught you this prayer? How did you see this prayer used in your life? If this is the first time you're hearing it, talk about your first impressions of the Lord's Prayer.
3. Think about these questions together: When Jesus taught this prayer, did he intend it to be the ONLY prayer His disciples prayed? If not, what was he trying to help them understand with this prayer? Talk about whether you believe these are the literal words we have to pray or if they serve as a guideline for how we pray.
4. Read Romans 8:14-17. Read out loud and make a note of any words or phrases that stand out to you. This letter from Paul is to a church that is divided by race & religion - Jews versus Gentiles. Paul is trying to bring them together, even though the Jewish people believed the Gentiles were inferior because they weren't born Jewish and taught to keep the law. Talk about how this information shapes the way you read the passage.
5. Paul says that being part of life with the Father means living by the Spirit (8:14). Last week we talked about what living by the Spirit does in us - talk about how this passage reinforces that idea.
6. Pastor Tim mentioned how some of us do not have good or healthy father figures in our lives. In Romans 8:15, Paul says that life in the Spirit sets us free to have a deep and close relationship with God as "Father" (aka Abba). Talk about how that sits with you - what do you need from God today to help you see this Father as different from the other fathers you have experienced?
7. Romans 8:16-17 suggests that being children of God doesn't mean that everything comes easily or doesn't involve a struggle. Take a moment and think about

the Lord's Prayer - which of the lines is hardest for you to pray right now? Which line would be hardest for you to live out this week? Give us what we need today? Let your Kingdom come (not mine)? Forgive me as I forgive others? Talk as a group about why this particular line is difficult.

Takeaway

As a group, take some time praying the Lord's Prayer together. However, take a moment and do things a little differently:

1. Pray each line and allow time in between for everyone in the group to think quietly about what that line means for them.
2. After the "give us today," "Forgive," and "Lead us...deliver us" lines, consider writing down one or two things you need. Think of someone you need to forgive or an issue you need to confess. Consider a struggle you need help with this week.
3. If it is comfortable, talk as a group about what you heard while praying. Close by asking God to help you follow through on what you heard during the week to come.

Also remember: you can [follow this link](#) to find a Bible reading plan or a YouVersion devotional you can do on your mobile device if you don't have a plan for reading Scripture and praying on a regular basis.