



Our Father

Pastor John Pickens
February 26, 2023

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:9-13

⁹ Pray like this: Our Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.

¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today the food we need,^[a]

¹² and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven
those who sin against us.

¹³ And don't let us yield to temptation,^[b]
but rescue us from the evil one.^[c]

Opening Discussion

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

(Below are the main points of this week's sermon and discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)

Thought #1 – Our Father!

Verses: Matthew 6:9-13

- What are some powerful names in pop culture *or* history that illicit strong feelings at the mere mention of their name?
- Pastor John used the following quote, "Our lives are always moving in the direction of our strongest thoughts. What we think shapes who we are." He continued, "Your strongest thought about God directly impacts your

relationship with him. What you think about God matters deeply."

- What thoughts or feelings do you think of when you hear the name, "God"?
- How have your feelings about God's name changed or stayed the same over the years?
- Pastor John suggested that we allow God to define what true fatherhood looks like. How does God's character change your definition of "fatherhood"?

Thought #2 – In Heaven!

Verses: Matthew 6:9-13, James 1:5

- When we think of our Father "in heaven", Pastor John suggests that God has a perspective that we lack. Knowing God has a heaven mindset (kingdom mindset), how would you say that God's perspective might be different from ours?
- Pastor John said, "God has a perspective that we lack. He has knowledge about the situations in our life that we do not possess. He sees things we cannot see. He has insights that will help us. He has the wisdom to share with us." Read James 1:5. What does this verse tell us about our need for God's perspective in our lives?

Thought #3 – May your name be kept holy!

Verses: Matthew 6:9-13

- As you think of how God is presented in scripture, what is His reputation? Consider the following names of God that are recorded throughout scripture:
 1. Jehovah-Nissi
 - Exodus 17
 - God is my banner.
 2. Jehovah-Raah
 - Psalm 23
 - God our Shepherd.
 3. Jehovah Rapha
 - Exodus 15
 - God heals.

