



THE BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER
MATTHEW 6:9-13



CONNECT

Have you ever been at a loss for what to say? Have you ever wished you had the perfect words to say to someone?

WORD

Matthew 6:9-13 (ESV) - ⁹Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread, ¹²and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

The disciples lived with Jesus every day and watched what he did. It didn't take them long to notice that Jesus spent a lot of time praying. His commitment to constant prayer demonstrated how important prayer was to him and to the work that he was doing. Thus, when the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Lord, teach us to pray," we can assume they had been watching and listening to Jesus pray. There was something about the way that Jesus prayed that was different and it made them want to be able to pray in the same way. Jesus was happy to teach them to pray because he knew just how important prayer is for disciples.

When Jesus taught the disciples to pray, he did not give them several prayers to choose from. He did not try to teach them different prayers for different occasions. He provided them with one model to follow. It seems like such a simple prayer. It only has six parts to it, but those parts cover everything that Jesus taught us about living in his kingdom.

It may be useful for us to think about the six parts of Lord's Prayer by using another shape, the hexagon.



The first part of the prayer, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name," is about intimacy with God and respect for who he is. God is very close to us and yet he is very different and special. We acknowledge God's character.

2 The second part of the prayer, "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," is about aligning

our desires with God's desires for the world and in our lives.

The third part, "Give us today our daily bread" is about admitting that we are needy beings. We have physical needs, spiritual needs and emotional needs. All of this is included in "daily bread" and God is the one who provides for our needs.

The fourth part of the prayer, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" is about acknowledging the fact that we frequently try to do things our own way. We are in need of God's forgiveness. We also must extend forgiveness and understanding to others when they stray just as God does for us.

The fifth part of the prayer, "Lead us not into temptation" is about acknowledging that we need God's guidance in all that we do. As we go out into the world to serve him we need his strength to be in the world and not of the world.

The final portion of the prayer, "and deliver us from the evil one" is about knowing that we have an enemy. We need our Father's protection to keep us safe.

SO WHAT

What is the relevance to my life?

- What really stood out to you in today's message and lesson? What would you like to discuss further with the group?
- "Father" is a very intimate name for God. How can we balance this intimacy with the respect that God's character demands?

- Read Luke 22:42. What does Jesus' prayer in this passage teach us about aligning our will with God's will?
- What do we REALLY need to make it through the day? How has God exceeded the need in your life?
- What would happen if God forgave you in the same manner that you forgive others?
- What is happening in your life now that requires God's guidance?
- How has God protected you? Can you share a time when God's intervention made all the difference?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the word to my life?



How does this lesson change the way you think about prayer? Why did God choose this moment to bring this lesson to you?



What has God laid on your heart with this lesson? How does understanding the importance of prayer change your relationship with him?



What does God want you to do differently this week as a result of this lesson? How will you change the way you pray?

How can we help you and hold you accountable? How can we pray for you? What can we do to show our love for you this week? Who do you know that needs to hear this lesson? Who can you share it with?

