

Bringing Heaven to Earth

January 30, 2022

Scriptures: Matthew 6:9-13;

Bottom Line: Prayer refocuses us on God's Kingdom and asks us to be a part of it

The Lord's Prayer

Your Name - God's name is His reputation. We're praying for God's reputation to be restored, and for all people to come to know God as He truly is.

Your Kingdom & Will - This reminds us of the great story of salvation: that God is working to once again have His space overlap our space: Heaven come to Earth.

Our Daily Bread - Like the Israelites between Egypt and the Promised Land, we are in-between salvation and the promise fulfilled. And like the *manna* that God gave to Israel, it is God who truly gives us what we need to live.

Our Debts & Debtors - We are reminded just how important a role forgiveness plays in the way of Jesus and the coming of His Kingdom.

Our Deliverance - Following in the way of Jesus will involve difficulty and opposition. We pray that God would keep us from the difficult tests of faith, and deliver us from the opposition of the enemy.

The Lord's Prayer Refocuses Us on God's Kingdom

- In Matthew 6, Jesus is teaching His followers to pray the Lord's prayer 3 times every day: morning, noon, and evening
- This prayer is a way of reminding and refocusing followers of Jesus on what is most important: God's Kingdom

The Lord's Prayer Calls Us To Participate in God's Kingdom

- God's people carry His name and partner with God to bring His Kingdom. If we want God's name restored and Kingdom to come, we play a role in that.
- Jesus didn't say "me" or "my," He said "us" and "our." We are praying for the whole community when we pray this prayer. Who do I know that needs daily bread, forgiveness, or deliverance?
- The Lord's Prayer invites God's people to see how we can be an answer to prayer, and active players in bringing heaven to earth.

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one or more of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. What is your relationship to the Lord's Prayer? Do you know it well? Do you ever say it in daily life?
3. Read **Matthew 22:34-40**
 - a. How does the greatest command connect with the Lord's Prayer? (hint, they're both broken into two parts)
4. **Challenge**
 - a. Pray the Lord's Prayer 3 times a day (morning, noon, and evening) until you meet again
 - b. When you meet, share what that experience was like. Did you see anything differently? Did God speak to you? Were you called to do something for God's Kingdom?