

A REFLECTION OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Text: Matthew 6:9-13

Jesus not only called God "Father," He taught *us* to call God "Father." In Matthew 6:9, He said: "*When you pray, say this, 'Our Father, who is in heaven.'*"

- In this prayer we have a model of fatherhood.
- In this prayer we're told what a father is to do.
- In this prayer, we're told what is reasonable for a child to expect from his or her father.

We can sum up what this passage teaches us about fatherhood in four words:

1. **A father's _____ is God.**

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. v. 9

2. **A father _____ for his _____ children.**

Give us this day our daily bread. v.11

If anyone doesn't provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he's denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8

3. **A father _____ his children.**

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. v. 12

4. **A father _____ his children.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. v. 13

If we do these things—even in our imperfection, our flaws, our mistakes, our sins—we can be a reflection of our children's perfect heavenly Father.