

Engaging God's Presence: The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we have also forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

(NIV)

Engaging God's Presence: The Lord's Prayer

Prayer isn't about me- it's about God

James Mulholland

This prayer is not for getting what we want but for bending our wants toward what God wants...learning how to be a Christian by learning how to pray as a Christian.

William Willimon

This prayer serves as a lens through which to see Jesus himself, and to discover something of what he was about. When Jesus gave this prayer, he was giving part of his own breath, his own life...

N.T. Wright

...even if he does not bring you the answer you want, he will bring you himself. And maybe at the secret heart of all our prayers that is what we are really praying for.

Frederick Buechner

True, whole prayer is nothing but love.

Augustine

It was a contest of all the brute force of Rome against a small sect that merely prayed. Who would have predicted...

Walter Wink

Communion with God is the one need of the soul beyond all other needs; prayer is the essence of that communion.

George McDonald

When we pray, we enter into the real world, the substance of the kingdom, and our bodies and souls begin to function for the first time as they were created to function.

Dallas Willard

He welcomes us home: home to serenity and peace and joy, home to friendship and fellowship and openness, home to intimacy and acceptance and affirmation. We do not need to be shy... He invites us into the living room of his heart, where we can put on old slippers and share freely.

Richard Foster

Week 1: Beginning the Prayer Journey

Which of the quotes on prayer most catches your attention? Why?

How would you describe your experience of prayer?

How did you learn to pray?

What do you think of the idea of being trained in prayer? What do you think that would look like?

Read Luke 11.1. What do you think John's prayer school was like?

Read Luke 11.2-13. What seems to be some important ideas Jesus wants his followers to understand about beginning a relationship with God?

Have you ever enrolled in the school of our Master, Jesus, to learn how to pray?

Who do you know whose prayer life exhibits a deep intimacy with God?

Why do you think this person has such a meaningful prayer life?

The title of our series is called: Embracing God's Presence. In what ways do you understand prayer to bring the very presence of the Creator beside you in your life-walk?

It is an everyday adventure to live in the power of the Lord's Prayer. This prayer of his presence and his will can be hid in our hearts, allowing the Holy Spirit to bring it to our minds throughout the day and water the depths of our souls in a way that sources our living. It worked that way for Jesus. His disciples asked for this gift above any other- above healing, driving out demons, walking on water. They sensed that Jesus' constant engagement with the presence of the Father through prayer empowered everything he did and all that he was.

Will you covenant with the Lord for this series:

"Lord Jesus! Enroll my name among those who confess that they don't know how to pray as they should. Teach me to be patient in Your school, so that you have time to train me. Lead me to forget my thoughts of what I think I know, and make me kneel before you in true poverty of spirit. Fill me with confidence that with You as my teacher, I will learn to pray, and that I will learn to follow."

Signed: _____

Read Matthew 6.7-13. Break the prayer down into these seven parts and begin this week by spending one day meditating and repeating one part:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Monday: | Our Father in heaven |
| Tuesday: | hallowed be your name |
| Wednesday: | your kingdom come |
| Thursday: | your will be done on earth as it is in heaven |
| Friday: | Give us today our daily bread |
| Saturday: | Forgive us our debts as we have also forgiven our debtors |
| Sunday: | Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. |
| End everyday: | For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. |

Share this prayer with your group:

Dear God, I am so thankful for your invitation to enter your heart of love. As best I can I come in. Thank you for receiving me.

Week 2: Understanding the Essence of Prayer

Do you ever feel your prayer life just isn't working? Check the statements that characterize your prayer life:

- My prayers hit the ceiling and bounce back
- I only pray when its really bad
- I pray occasionally
- I pray daily
- I find it difficult to pray for a long time
- I pray constantly
- I want to understand even more about Jesus' presence

Write and share what God is teaching you in his school of prayer:

Based on our teaching this morning and your practice last week, has your approach to the prayer been geared to how the Master has taught?

What have you been expecting prayer to do for you?

What would it look like to you if prayer were "working"?

Is prayer supposed to work at all?

Look at Matthew 6.6. Check the promise contained in this verse:

- God likes to keep secrets
- God rewards our prayers
- God answers our prayers the way we want

Why do you think Jesus urges his disciples to pray when he states: "For your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Mt. 6.8).

Points:

- ✓ Having our requests granted is not the primary goal of prayer
- ✓ Prayer is not a way to alert God to our needs
- ✓ Prayer is not about answers

What do you think is the difference between answers and reward?

What do you think is the reward that Jesus really speaks of?

See Luke 11.13. What does Jesus see as the greatest possible reward to prayer? What does that reward really symbolize?

Which best expresses the main purpose of prayer:

- God granting our requests
- Making us feel better or more peaceful
- Spending time in the Presence of the Father
- Making sure God knows our needs
- Getting answers for our problems

Use this thought to guide you in your prayers this week:

*My goal is God himself, not joy, nor peace,
Nor even blessing, but Himself, my God;
Tis His to lead me there, not mine, but His-
At any cost, dear Lord, by any road.*

Again this week, spend each day focusing on one phrase of the Lord's Prayer using this translation:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Monday: | Dear Father always near us, |
| Tuesday: | May your name be treasured and loved, |
| Wednesday: | May your rule be completed in us- |
| Thursday: | May your will be done here on earth in just the way it is done in heaven. |
| Friday: | Give us today the things we need today, |
| Saturday: | And forgive us our sins and impositions on you as we are forgiving all who in any way offend us. |
| Sunday: | Please don't put us through trials, but deliver us from everything bad. |
| End everyday: | Because you are the one in charge, And you have all the power, And the glory too is all yours- forever- Which is just the way we want it! |

Week 3: Where Prayers Go To Die

There is such a thing as mistaken prayer, according to our Master Teacher, Jesus. They come from misguided motives and mistaken thoughts about our Father.

The Phantom Prayer (Matthew 6.5a; Luke 11.8-10)

One of the main problems with our prayer life is we don't pray. Jesus assumed in his teaching that we would pray... "When you pray..." He did not say if you pray or whenever you feel like praying. A recent survey of one large church fellowship showed that 25% of its members *never* pray.

Why do you think many Christians fail to pray? Check one or more:

- Too busy
- Too self-confident
- Too comfortable
- Too depressed
- Too guilty
- Too undisciplined

Is something keeping you from having a dynamic prayer life? Describe the problem and ask someone in your group to pray with you.

Think of similar analogies to a Christian who never prays:

- ❖ A football team that never practices
- ❖ An orchestra that never tunes its instruments
- ❖ A farmer who never plants any crops
- ❖ An artist who never buys any paint
- ❖ A craftsman who never spends time learning from a Master

Share the following scriptures and discuss the important principles of prayer:

Luke 6.12

Acts 1.14

Romans 1.9-10

1 Thessalonians 5.16-17

The Phony Prayer

When asked to pray in public, do you...

- Feel self-conscious
- Change your vocabulary or tone of voice
- Seem concerned with what people will think of your prayers
- Feel a desire to impress others
- Struggle with what to say
- Pray like you would in private

Read Matthew 6.5-8. Jesus teaches about the type of motivations that people can have when they pray and their corresponding rewards. Sharing prayer with others is important. We need to consider Jesus' teaching regarding our prayer with others so that even our public and communal prayers can have the desired reward of sharing the presence of God.

Read the following scriptures and share what they teach us about Jesus' prayer life:

Mark 1.35

Mark 6.46-47

Luke 5.15-16

Luke 9.18

The Frivolous Prayer

To first century Greeks and Romans, prayer had both its formal and magical sides. Prayer was the butter that greased the palms of the pagan gods. The amount of time one repeated prayer, the particular phrases used, the pattern to the prayer were all ways that people felt like they could coerce or persuade the gods to their favor.

How do you think these ideas stack up against Jesus' teaching in Luke 11.9-13?

What is the difference between what Jesus teaches in Matthew 6.7 and the idea of perseverance?

What happens to prayer life when people don't persevere?

How do perseverance and hope work together?

Instead of frivolous prayers, God wants us to pray fervently, boldly, and to cry out to him in total dependence, believing that he will graciously bless us according to his wisdom and love. He asks that we seek his heart, not his attention.

The One who treasures our intimate conversations with Him and knows what we need before we ask him is not testing our faith with word counts and endurance records.

More Training in the Jesus' School of Prayer:

How do the following scriptures help us understand the kind of prayers that God desires?

Psalms 18.6

Micah 7.7

Luke 18.1-7 Luke 22.44

What do the following verses tell us about how God responds to our choices about prayer?

Hebrews 11.6

Luke 12.31

Psalms 119.2

Again this week allow the teaching of Jesus to bring you into the presence of the Father. In your time sharing these words with God, think also about the aspects of each segment to help you understand how the prayer offers not only your words but your life to God's presence.

- Monday: Our Father in heaven
(stresses community, relationship, nearness)
- Tuesday: hallowed be your name
(commitment to holiness)
- Wednesday: your kingdom come
(commitment to participation)
- Thursday: your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
(commitment to obedience)
- Friday: Give us today our daily bread
(trust for physical provision)
- Saturday: Forgive us our debts as we have also forgiven our debtors
(trust for cleansing and acceptance)
- Sunday: Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
(trust for power over temptation)
- End everyday: For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever.
(focuses on his rule, sufficiency, and his Presence)

Week 4: Three Realities From the Prayer of Jesus

Our Father in heaven

Share with God a new thought or action that you gleaned from your training in Jesus' School of Prayer this week. Write it down and feel free to share it with your group as you begin:

Read [Hebrews 10.19-20](#). What enables us to live our lives in the presence of God?

Read also [Hebrews 7.25](#); [Romans 8.26](#)

Reality 1: Community Context

Every time you pray "Our Father" you are praying a relational prayer that is absolutely assured of placing you in the awesome, holy, glorious presence of God. And it is so because of Christ and his life and love for us. Jesus paid the price for our privilege of prayer!

Notice the repetition of the word "our" and "us" in the Lord's Prayer.

- What does that tell you about this prayer?
- What should that remind us of?

In an individualistic and modern culture, it is hard to think of ourselves and humble ourselves to be participants and learners in community.

Think about how many times you say "I" and "Me" in your prayers. If you replaced all those terms with "our", how would that affect your prayers?

Where do you see failure in Christians to understand their faith as communal and not just individual?

Reality 2: Family Connection

To the Jews of Jesus' day, this intimate personal way of addressing God was unheard of and terribly offensive. Even in the Old Testament, God is rarely spoken of as Father. Yet Jesus prayed like this regularly. All but one of his prayers begin with Him saying "Father." Read [Romans 8.15](#).

Read [1 John 2.28 – 3.2](#). Notice how our acceptance and trust of God's love is crucial to a vibrant life in his presence. Addressing God as Father each day gives us training and practice in understanding his love and acceptance of us.

If you have doubts of God's acceptance, journal the nature of these doubts and ask your group to pray for you

Read John 5.17-18; 6.32-38; and then Mark 14.35-36. What do you see in each of these passages linked to Jesus' understanding of God as his Father? What does this sort of intimate relationship produce in the life of Jesus?

Read Isaiah 64.8. Because God is our Father, how should we think of ourselves?

In the Koran, the sacred writings of Islam, there are 99 words for God but not one of them refers to God as "Father" or as "Love." When was the last time you spoke to God in prayer and simply spoke of your love for him?

Reality 3: Always at Hand

The place where we find Our Father is in *the heavens*. The issue is not so much about his location as it is his availability and presence. The heavens are not a far off place beyond the cosmos, but the ultimate reality of existence where God reigns and lives. The heavens envelope every bit of our existence. The heavens are all around us. Jesus came as one who opened up the activity of the heavens to those who embraced his kingdom. The heavens have forever come near in Jesus. Children of God are citizens of the heavens—the sphere and rule of God. Jesus came to usher in the kingdom of the heavens, the reality of life with God but hidden from the eyes of most men. It is from the heavens that God rules sovereign in this world. See John 1.51.

What do the following scriptures teach us about God's nature or character?

1 Chronicles 29.10-13
Psalm 100.5
1 John 4.7-8

How does God's nature affect who or what you bring to him in prayer?

Take time to pray in your group using the flowing names of God from the Old Testament, sharing with him how they are precious to you:

El Shaddai (Almighty God): He has abundant resources and can enable us to do anything that he requires

Adonai (Lord): He is Master of the Universe. You can know that he is Sufficient.

Jehovah Shammah (The Lord is there): When you feel alone and need to sense his presence, you can call upon him because through Jesus you have entered into the kingdom of the heavens.

This week begin to say the prayer in its entirety each day, slowly speaking the words and thinking of their implications for your life.

Please take time to journal each day what God is teaching you in Jesus' school of prayer:

Week 5: Callings From the Prayer of Jesus

*Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.*

What do these clauses from Jesus' prayer really mean?

God's name is hallowed, or Holy, whether we honor it or not. But when we enter his presence to live with him in this prayer, we declare that our lives are committed to giving honor and holiness to his name- through our living!

His kingdom will triumph whether we participate or not, but when we give our lives to this prayer, what do you understand about your life and his kingdom?

Read Matthew 6.24-33. How does this prayer specifically invite us to commit to the kingdom?

How do we begin to see things from a kingdom perspective?

Read John 4.34-35. Jesus looked on the town of Sychar and saw things from a kingdom perspective. Looking at your neighbors, coworkers, church family from God's point of view, list specific needs:

How would you describe the way that God's will is done in the heavens? How do you imagine the angels and archangels respond to his bidding? How do those who live in his face and enjoy his love respond to his will on their lives?

Read John 4.34. How does Jesus characterize his life in relation to God's will?

Name one thing God has done through your life that only He could have accomplished. Share it with the group.

Share this prayer with the group: *"Heavenly Father, help me see the world from Your point of view. Make me an instrument in accomplishing your will. I don't want to ask for anything that will dishonor your name. May I sense your presence all through the day and be sensitive to what you are doing in the lives of those around me."*

The Calling to Holiness

Regarding your family name, what gives you pride and/or appreciation?
What sort of reputation goes along with your family name?

Read about the nature of God's Family name in the following passages and note some of the things that are important to God's reputation.

- Revelation 4.8
- John 4.24
- 1 John 1.9
- Matthew 5.43-48
- 2 Corinthians 1.18-21
- Romans 1.20
- Ephesians 5.8-9

How have you seen Christians bring dishonor to the name of God?

Read Ezekiel 36.22-23 (rest of chapter if you wish): Share your response to that passage about how God protects his honor.

Read Jesus' prayer in John 17. What similarities do you see with Ezekiel 36?

How can you begin each day impacting your life with the call to live "Holy is your name?"

Look at God's kingdom call for each of us in Matthew 28.19-20. Write a personal statement that identifies how you will seek to make God's name known:

Week 6: The Calling to Kingdom

Your kingdom come

Based on a country you have visited, a movie you have seen, or a book you have read, what are some of the characteristics of a kingdom?

If you lived in a country ruled by a king in the 1st century, what privileges and responsibilities might you have?

How would you relate these understandings to the kingdom of God?

Read Jesus' teaching and discuss what you discover about the kingdom of God:

Matthew 12.28; 19.24; 13.11; 13.44-46

Mark 10.15; Mark 12.34; Mark 14.25

Luke 4.43; 10.9-11; 13.18-21

The kingdom of God is the sphere of God's rule. This prayer reveals to God our desire for the establishment in a greater way of his rule. While the kingdom is a coming event at the return of Jesus, it is also a present reality. See Matthew 3.2. Also see Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43.

It is not fully established, but it is now "on the move." Heaven is breaking into this realm by the first appearing of Jesus in the world. The new age has dawned and the old age is fading.

Karl Barth wrote: *"To clasp the hands on prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of this world."*

Read Ephesians 6.10-18. How often do you think of prayer as warfare? Where is the battle chiefly to be waged?

What do you think of the way that Romans 8.18-27 speaks of dawning and fading of the ages? How does prayer become an important part of that?

Everywhere we go there are kingdom opportunities! The Lord's Prayer daily calls us to open our eyes to the reality of God's kingdom. "Your kingdom come" calls us into his activity and pleads for our hearts to be trained to see kingdom possibilities.

- When you stop for gas on the way home from work: there may be opportunities to hear something, say something.
- When you take your family out to dinner- can you bring kingdom to the waiter, the busboy, the hostess, others who are waiting for a table.
- When you're at a ball game, is there someone sitting next to you that the Spirit has placed there in this particular moment?

- When you are on vacation, let God use you to rest with a novel or a part of his scenic beauty and prepare yourself to again enter your vocation where you can be an even greater kingdom influence.
- When your family is together at the holidays, let God use you to interject hope and truth into your family traditions.

Where have you found kingdom opportunities in unlikely places?

This prayer leads us to live because the kingdom is here, because the kingdom is coming.

List places you will be or activities you will engage in this week:

List people whom you will intersect with this week:

Discuss with your group and also with the Lord how you can bring the concerns of the kingdom into these opportunities.

| |
|---|
| <p>Daily pray the Lord's Prayer this week taking special concern to write decisions that you will make to have God's kingdom come in a fuller way in your life. Record how you have seen God reward you in those decisions.</p> |
|---|

Week 7: The Calling to Will

*Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.*

What has been a primary drive of your will the past week? What have you been able to accomplish because you have directed your will so strongly?

How often do we realize that we are praying for the FULL accomplishment of God's will in our life?

Which of the following activities reflect your commitment to the full accomplishment of His will? Which do you need to work on?

- My calendar is controlled by God's priorities
- My daily schedule includes moments where I consciously place myself in his presence
- My checkbook reflects kingdom activities
- I see my work as a ministry
- My life goals are in line with God's

This prayer makes every moment of every day an adventure with the Father.

How might the Father's will alter some of your activities?

ILL: Interruptions: Read Luke 8.40-48.

Have you had a similar experience in which an interruption turned out to be a "God- thing?" If so, share it with your group.

It requires obedience to allow interruptions to be seen as opportunities instead of problems.

Read the following teachings of Jesus and note the ideas about those who do the will of God:

Matthew 7.15-23

John 5.17-19

5.37-44

John 8.42

John 10.14-16

John 12.15-17; 34-35; 15.9-17

Our will is the center of our being; it drives our choices and decisions. The Lord's Prayer calls us, because we love God and follow Jesus, to lay down our will so that it can be subordinate to the leading of God's Spirit.

Read [Galatians 5.16-25](#). In what areas do you most struggle with releasing your will to the control of the Spirit?

Which of the following sins reveal that you have struggled in releasing your will to the guidance of the Spirit?

- Frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness
- Unsatisfied desires
- A brutal temper
- Small-minded pursuits
- Addictive behaviors
- Looking at others rivals
- Envyng what other people have
- Paranoid lonileness

How do you feel the Spirit of God growing the following in your life:

- Affection for others
- Serenity
- Loyal in commitments
- Marshaling and directing our energies wisely
- Exhuberance about what God is doing
- Sense of compassion in our actions

Direct your thoughts around the Lord's Prayer this week:

| | |
|------------|---|
| Monday: | The Lord's Prayer in completion (NIV) |
| Tuesday: | Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven |
| Wednesday: | Not my will but Yours |
| Thursday: | This is my food: To do Your will |
| Friday: | How sweet are your words to my taste |
| Saturday: | The Lord's Prayer in completion (modern) |

Week 8: Trust from the Prayer of Jesus (1)

Give us this day our daily bread.

Describe how you experience God’s provision for your daily needs? Are there needs that you feel uneasiness about or insecurity with? If so, share them with the group and devote them to some time in prayer before going further.

Jesus’ in his school of prayer teaches us to do two things regarding our existence:

- (1) He wants us to simply ask
- (2) He wants us to believe that God is lovingly disposed to give

What are the different dimensions of our existence that Jesus leads us to bring before God’s presence in the phrases of the prayer above?

Read the following and summarize their teaching in the space provided:

Matthew 7.7-8

Mark 11.24

John 15.7

1 John 5.14-15

In order to accomplish the kingdom commitments you have made in your life, identify the top three needs you have in each category:

| Physical Needs | Emotional Needs | Spiritual Needs |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. _____ | 1. _____ | 1. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 2. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 3. _____ | 3. _____ |

Jesus promises in Matthew 6.33 that if we as His followers will focus on his kingdom, He will personally manage the affairs of our own kingdoms.

We will know that God’s kingdom is complete when the day comes, at Jesus’ appearing, in which we can live having all f these needs met directly by God himself- we will no longer have to ask.

- He will meet any physical needs by his presence
- He will take away sin and its effects forever
- Our complete desire will be for more and more of him

The Trust of Daily Sustenance

Daily Bread is an important kingdom concern. In God's kingdom, everything concerning us is sacred.

Read 1 Corinthians 10.31 and 1 Timothy 4.4. What does this teach us about ordinary things like meals?

Read Matthew 6.26, 28-30. Recently, how has God demonstrated that He cares about the most ordinary matters in your life?

Place a circle around the area that tends to bring you the most anxiety:

| | | | |
|--------|----------|---------------|--------|
| Job | Finances | Relationships | Car |
| School | Children | Parents | Other: |

Share with others in the group and see how their perspectives on the kingdom can help you turn this over to God. Have the group pray for you about this.

Read Exodus 16.11: How could you hide this thought in your heart so that it could be present with you at every instance that you encounter God's provision?

What does God want to teach you about relying on his provision?

Read Deuteronomy 15.7-11.

What would help you become more open-handed in giving to the kingdom causes?

- ❖ More trust that God will supply my needs
- ❖ More awareness of needs around me
- ❖ Finding an appropriate way to help
- ❖ Praying for compassion for others
- ❖ Seeking forgiveness for selfishness and hoarding

Week 9: Trust From the Prayer Of Jesus (2)

*Forgive us our debts,
as we have also forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one*

Read the following passages and discuss the effects of sin on our relationship with God:

Deuteronomy 31.18

Psalm 66.18

Isaiah 59.2

Read 1 John 1.8-9. Discuss with the group the nature of "confession." How does confession enrich our relationship with God?

Review these different areas of your life. If you know of sin that needs to be confessed before God, bring it before him and ask him to forgive it. Check each area as you pray.

| | | | | |
|------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Family | Church | Church members | Church leaders | Community |
| Nationwork | kingdom commitments | Other | | |

Read Matthew 18.21-35: How would you summarize the parable?

What is the fruit of a true experience of grace?

Read Colossians 3.13. Which best describes our motivation to forgive?

- People deserve our forgiveness
- People deserve a second chance
- Christ forgave us
- God will punish them

Who do you need to release from their debt of sin against you? What is keeping you from carrying harshness or a grudge against them?

Trust of Protection

Read James 1.13-14. How can you explain the root of temptation?

When we pray for protection from temptation, we are asking God to spare us from exposure to situations that would severely test our vulnerability. Look at God's promise in 1 Corinthians 10.13.

Share the circumstances in which you are most vulnerable to temptation. List reasons why you think you fail in temptation.

Share with the group how God has helped deliver you from yielding to temptations.

Read Matthew 4.1-11. What do you think helped Jesus remain focused during this time of temptation?

Notice that the Father supplied the Son with everything that he needed. Jesus did not need any of Evil's allures.

In your daily time with the Lord's Prayer this week, call upon God as **Jehovah Mekadesh**: The Lord who Sanctifies. As you pray this name, ask God to keep you from sin and allow you to be used to serve Him. Remember now matter your needs, God has them covered.

Week 10: The Power of Prayer

*For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.*

Use these questions to help share with your group your journey in the Jesus school of prayer:

Kingdom

How did you advance God's kingdom this week?
How did God demonstrate his provision and care this week?
In what areas do you struggle to give God's name honor?

Power

Read John 15.1-8. Explain verse 5 in your own words.

We need a constant check on our own pride and self-importance- a daily desire to do all things for His praise and glory.

Read Acts 17.24-25.

What difference would it make in your daily activities if you reminded yourself that everything should be done to advance God's kingdom, in His power, for His glory?

Jesus lived out this prayer: See John 7.17-18; 6.38-40; 5.30; Luke 22.42

If we are to live the prayer of Jesus, we will follow in his steps.

Write out the key thought in each of the following verses:

Psalms 40.8:

Psalms 143.10:

Ephesians 6.6:

James 4.15

Much of our time and prayer life is devoted for temporal things like health and physical provision. Read Matthew 6.19-21. What's the problem with focusing on that?

What situation, circumstances, or events are you going through in which you feel powerless (see below)?

Parenting Marriage Caring for Parents
Health concerns Job Illness
Finances Death in family Other:

Read Genesis 50.20. What you have you experienced that looked unfortunate but that God turned into something good?

Write the main thought about people's experiences about relying on God's power other than their own:

2 Samuel 22.33

Psalms 46.1

Matthew 19.26

2 Corinthians 12. 9-10

Which of the following best expresses your feelings about relying on God's power?

- A crutch for weak people
- We all need God at some point
- I fight my own battles
- I rely on God for the big stuff
- He is my strength in all things
- Without Him I can do nothing

Read the amazing verse of John 5.19-20. What kind of things can you imagine doing for God by his power?

Are there things you would like to do for the kingdom but have been afraid to do?

Glory

Read 1 Peter 4.11; Matthew 5.14-16. Where God's people are, there his glory shines! We are God's incarnation, his visible glory here on earth. The Lord's Prayer throws us into the mission and calling of shining that glory everywhere we step.

How have people noticed the glory of God in you?

Read 2 Corinthians 3.17-18.

How can you begin to reflect the Lord's glory in each segment of your day?

Home Work Church Relationships Recreation

Share with the group and with the Lord how you would like him to help you be a brighter vessel of His glory.

I hope that by now you have grown thirsty for the Lord's Prayer to be a pattern in your heart and on your lips every day. I hope that you will continue in Jesus' school of prayer and allow this prayer to form and order your life for his glory.

A Final group Prayer:

Father, remind us daily that yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. Reveal your glory in us. Express your awesome presence through our words and actions- lighting the corners of our world. Make us instruments of your power. Let each moment be an opportunity to make your name Holy. Help us to remember that kingdom business is everything. Whatever you want us to do today, our answer is "Yes!" Remind us that what we need most, is YOU. In fact, that's all we need.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Dear Father always near us,
may your name be treasured and loved,
may your rule be completed in us-
may your will be done here on earth
in just the way it is done in heaven.
Give us today the things we need today,
And forgive us our sins and impositions on you
As we are forgiving all who in any way offend us.
Please don't put us through trials,
But deliver us from everything bad.
Because you are the one in charge,
And you have all the power,
And the glory too is all yours- forever-
Which is just the way we want it!**

(Dallas Willard)