

# FOUNDATIONS: THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT

## OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name (Matthew 6:9).

### Our Father in Heaven

A. General Direction: Declare who God and the significance of our relationship with Him.

B. Exodus 4:22-23. 2 Samuel 7:14. Psalm 103.

C. Possible Expansion: *Father, you are great! You are full of wisdom and all power! You are the most significant relationship in our lives. We care what you think, and what your plan is. We know that we are significant to you. You have adopted us and brought us near. Your plan is not to destroy us but to save us, heal us, and build your family.*

### Hallowed Be Your Name

A. General Direction: Praise Yahweh and ask that he be honored more and more.

B. Exodus 4:17-18; Exodus 20:3; Exodus 34:6-7; Ezekiel 36:22-23.

C. Possible Expansion: *May the nations come to know you, Yahweh, and the greatness of your name. That's what the world needs, that's when justice will break through. I don't want my name glorified, I want your name to be worshipped above all the others.*

1. Jesus isn't necessarily giving us a formula, but more of a guideline for our prayer life. In verse nine, what is he telling us to make sure to include in our prayer lives?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Write out a prayer and spend 10-15 minutes praying in line with the guidelines in verse nine.

3. Spend a few minutes processing that prayer time together as a couple, family or group. How did that time go? What did you do well? What didn't go well? Was it awkward? Encouraging? Easy? Silent? Our communication with God is obviously really important, and we grow in our prayer lives by praying together. And we also grow by honestly processing that prayer time together.

4. How does Jesus's model for prayer develop priorities in our lives?

## **YOUR KINGDOM COME**

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10).

### **Your Kingdom Come**

- A. As we pray, we are praying to one who is already engaged in certain activities. God is not motionless and distant, but involved and moving. The Bible talks about this activity as God's will and kingdom: things he is doing and wants to do.
- B. So what is his kingdom and his will?
  - 1. It is the true knowledge of God, and knowing him as king.
  - 2. Isaiah 11:9, Jeremiah 31:34. John 17:3
- C. "On earth"
  - 1. All the evil we see is a result of our separation from God. As we face life in this world with all of its mess and joys, Jesus gives us a prayer to pray about the future and about the present. There is a future element and a present element to this kingdom and our prayers about it.

### **Two General Directions**

- A. Its an articulation of our future hope, joy and rest.
  - 1. Revelation 21:1-8.
- B. Its a contemplation and submission to God's desire for our particular situations.
  - 1. Mark 14:36.
  - 2. We lay down our own desires and search for God's desires.

### **Possible Expansions**

- A. Key prayer practice: Father, how do you want to bring the knowledge of you into this situation?
- B. A prayer for healing: Jesus your kingdom is breaking in and I know you can heal people, as a sign of the ultimate healing you will bring over all creation. I pray that your kingdom would break through in this situation and specifically you would bring healing to this person. But I also know that even in death, there is the ultimate restoration and the reality of the future resurrection. At that moment we know this person will be truly, fully healed. And so, we trust you with this outcome and ask you give us the eyes to see the signs of your kingdom in this moment.
- C. A prayer for lament (*from Richard Foster's Prayer*): "I am tired of praying. I am tired of asking. I am tired of waiting. But I will keep on praying and asking and waiting because I have no where else to go!"

- D. A prayer of hope: We cannot wait for the day of your return and to be a part of the restoration of all creation. Come Lord Jesus!
- E. A prayer of joy: Your kingdom and will are wonderful. You bring freedom, peace, love and Joy. You have filled me with the Holy Spirit and you have filled the church as well. May we grow in holiness, sacrificial love, and other fruits that you bring
- F. A prayer for transformation: Lord, you are transforming us into the image of Christ. That is your will and desire. continue to do that work of transformation. We long to make some real changes in our lives.

1. Jesus isn't giving us a formula of words to say, but more of a template for our prayer life. In verse ten, what is he telling us to make sure to include in our prayer lives?

2. Write out a prayer and spend 10-15 minutes praying in line with the guidelines in verse ten.

3. Spend a few minutes now processing that prayer time together as a couple, family or group. How did that time go? What did you do well? What didn't go well? Was it awkward? Encouraging? Easy? Silent? Our communication with God is obviously really important, and we grow in our prayer lives by praying together. And we also grow by honestly processing that prayer time together.

4. How does this petition about God's kingdom develop priorities in our lives?

## **GIVE US THIS DAY**

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors (Matthew 6:11-12).

1. Prayers for our needs should be set within the context of God's glory and purposes.
2. God calls on us to rely on him (not ourselves) for our daily provision in a disciplined way which leads us into a closer walk with him.
3. God invites us into an essential daily discipline of forgiveness that we would better experience this reality in our lives and more intentionally reconcile with others.

In summary, Pray:

- in the context of God's glory, kingdom and will
  - for your needs in a way that leads you to walk daily with God
  - for forgiveness daily with an honest evaluation of how you are missing the mark
  - or discernment about how God is leading you to forgive today
1. Jesus isn't giving us a formula of words to say, but more of a template for our prayer life. In verse 11-12, what is he telling us to make sure to include in our prayer lives?
  2. Write out a prayer and spend 10-15 minutes praying in line with the guidelines in verse 11-12.

3. Spend a few minutes now processing that prayer time together as a couple, family or group. How has your times of prayer changed over the past three weeks? What did you do well? What didn't go well? Our communication with God is obviously really important, and we grow in our prayer lives by praying together. And we also grow by honestly processing that prayer time together.

4. How does this petition about human needs develop priorities in our lives?