

Talking With God

Part 1 - Steady Through the Storm

James 5:13, *"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray."* (NIV)

Philippians 4:6, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."* (NIV)

Luke 5:16, *"Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."* (NIV)

- + Prayer was so central for Jesus that His disciples had a request I believe many would still ask Him today, "Teach us to pray".

The power to be steady through the storm is not centred around our own strength but entirely hinges upon the first two words Jesus taught us to pray, two words inviting us into a new kind of relationship with God - "Our Father".

The scope of the Lord's Prayer is personal yet global, capturing our attention for who God is and why it matters to how we live our daily lives.

What is the biggest challenge you might be facing, the largest wave rolling through your life?

Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (NIV)

A Revolutionary Prayer

A New Position: “Our Father” (Matthew 6:9a)

Perspective, a life of worship (Matthew 6:9b-10)

+ the first three petitions that put our focus on the Father,

“...hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (NIV)

The Lord’s Prayer not only *calls* God to action but also *commits* us to His plan.

Our *perspective* of the Father draws out the three statements of worship.

“Hallowed be your name”, our worship starts by recognising who God is: holy, set apart and deserving of our highest honour.

Question: Are we “hallowing” the name of God's Presence in our lives?

“Your Kingdom Come”

Question: How can we pursue Kingdom agendas where God has placed us in life?

“Your Will Be Done”

Eugene Peterson writes, “Life’s basic decision is rarely, if ever, whether to believe in God or not, but whether to worship or compete with Him.”

Question: Does my life reflect a trust that God’s will is ultimately best?

Provision, courage through the storm (Matthew 6:11-13)

Matthew 6:11-13 reads...

“Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (NIV)

Let me encourage you with three things that remind me of God's provision whatever our present, past, or future situations.

1. "Give us today our daily bread" (Present)
2. "Forgive us our debts" (Past)
3. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."
(Future)

Response: Living towards the Prayer

Communion: Name at the Wedding Table

Group Discussion Questions

1. Take time as a group to slowly pray the Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13). Consider and discuss what difference this prayer might mean for the season you are currently in.
2. Notice how the first three petitions focus us on God, "Your Name/ Kingdom/Will" which lead us into a lifestyle of worship. How does the nature of God affect how you go about living your life? (See questions in service notes to go deeper)
3. The latter three petitions deal with our own needs, dealing with our past, present and future. How might you find strength through the Lord's encouragement to pray in this way?

4. The Lord's Prayer begins with Jesus, the Son of God, inviting us to join into the family of God with Him encouraging us to prayer, "Our Father". How does that make you feel? Does it make you scared? Inspired? How does our position change your perspective for your daily provisions each day? (Three P's of the Lord's Prayer, as discussed within the message).

5. Matthew puts "*on earth as it is in heaven*" purposely at the centre of this prayer as it is connected to the wider goals of each petition within the prayer. As you consider what struggles or situations you might be going through, what might it look like to see the Kingdom break through, "*on earth as it is in heaven*". Is there a way God might be inviting you to participate in this process? What does it mean to both "call" and "commit" our Father and ourselves to this goal?

Try This:

- + Right Now Media: The Prayer Course (as a group)

- + Please contact the church office if you would like free access to this online material.

- + Download this app: Lectio 365 (as an individual)

- + Check out this book, "How to Pray, a simple guide for normal people" by Pete Greig.

- + Check out this book exploring the Lord's Prayer, "Fifty-Seven Words that Change the World" by Darrell Johnson. 1 Hour video summary of teaching online, <https://www.mobilizingfaith.com/post/the-lord-s-prayer>