

A 6 SESSION **BIBLE STUDY**
ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

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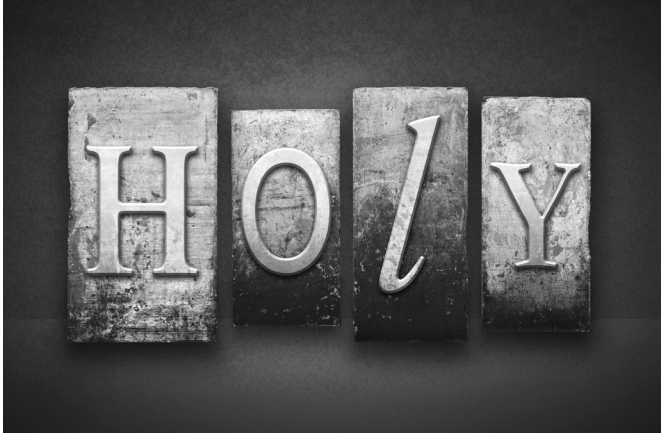
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Introduction



Jesus' disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). The prayer that Jesus taught them, the Lord's Prayer, comes to life—its words take on flesh—in the Person and work of the Savior. Jesus is the Father's Son, who by his obedient life and death hallowed his Father's name. Jesus came to earth to do his Father's will and in him the kingdom comes. He is the Bread of life who feeds us with his own body and blood and in his name we are forgiven and we forgive. Jesus stood in the place of sinners, was led into temptation and resisted it for our sake. By his death and resurrection we are delivered from the evils of sin, death and the devil.

As Scripture tells us, "we do not know what to pray for as we ought." Yet we have God's promise that his Spirit "intercedes for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26-27). Through the Spirit's inspiration we have the words our Lord taught us, treasured words that imprint on our prayers—and on our lives—the life of Jesus, the Word made flesh.



SESSION 1

*Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.*

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, only Son of the Father, you have taught us how to pray. Through faith in your name, and in the words you gave us, we call upon “our Father.” As we study the words of this prayer, by your Spirit teach us to pray, as you taught your disciples. Amen.

Discussion

When you were a child, by what name or title did you address your parents or grandparents?

Introduction

The apostle Paul told the people of Athens, “I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god’” (Acts 17:22-23). Like the citizens of Athens, people across the centuries have called out in prayer to idols of stone, wood, silver or gold, “to images formed by the art and imagination of man” (Acts 17:29). Paul went on to proclaim to the Athenians the God they worshiped as unknown, the God revealed in Christ Jesus. God is not unknown to us. Through faith in his Son, we are privileged to call him our Father.

The Father’s Son

1. **Read Matthew 11:27, John 1:18 and John 14:8-11.** Jesus teaches us to call God “our Father.” Who alone can make the Father known, and how was he made known to us? **Read Exodus 33:17-23.** Why could we not know him apart from this?
2. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-4 and Revelation 4:1-2.** Heaven, the dwelling place of God, is beyond our reach or knowledge—its mysteries open only to those to whom God chooses to reveal them. **Read John 3:12-14.** From whom do we learn of “heavenly things”?
3. **Read Exodus 3:13-17.** God first reveals his holy name to Moses. What is that name? What will God do for his people?
4. **Read John 8:56-59.** How does Jesus identify himself in these verses? **Read John 10:33.** The Jews understand what he has said. Why do they want to stone him?
5. In a courtroom setting, what might a person have to do to vindicate—to prove or confirm—a good reputation, a good name? In daily life, what might we say or do to establish our good name? **Read Ezekiel 36:22-36.** Why is God going to act to save Israel? What will God do to vindicate, to confirm, the holiness of his name? Why would such actions serve to vindicate his name?

6. **Read John 12:27-28.** Jesus prays, “Father, glorify your name.” What is the “hour” to which Jesus refers? **Read Luke 22:52-53.** By God’s plan and according to the Scriptures, to whom will that “hour” belong?
7. **Read John 17:1-5 and Philippians 2:5-11.** How is the Father’s holy name glorified through Jesus?

Our Father

1. **Read John 1:9-13 and Galatians 4:4-7.** Why are we privileged to call God “our Father”? “Abba” is a simple word, easy for little children to pronounce, like “Papa” or “Daddy” (see also Mark 14:36 and Romans 8:15). What do the words “our Father” teach us about prayer and about our God?
2. **Read Romans 8:16-17 and Ephesians 4:4-6.** Why would it be important to remember that we address God as “our Father” rather than “my Father”?
3. God vindicated the holiness of his name in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 2:9-10.** How are we made holy through the vindication of God’s holy name?
4. **Read Ephesians 4:17-32.** What are the many ways listed here in which we are to express the gift of God’s own righteousness, his holiness, in our lives? How can you reflect the holiness of God’s name in your home, at work or at school?
5. **Read Psalm 23:3.** There is a reputation at stake here. Why are we led in the paths of righteousness? Where might these paths of righteousness lead you?
6. How might the behavior of children reflect back on the parents? **Read Matthew 5:13-16.** According to these verses, how will our Father be glorified?

7. **Read John 14:8-9.** To see Jesus is to see the Father. What do you know about “our Father” in knowing Jesus?

Summary

I AM. The sacred name of God was considered too holy to be pronounced aloud, yet through faith in his Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, we have the privilege of calling the Most High God “Abba, Father.”

God vindicated the holiness of his name as he saved the people of Israel through mighty acts in Egypt. He vindicated the holiness of his name as he saved us through the life, death and resurrection of our Savior. We cry out to him in prayer—“Our Father”—and glorify his holy name.

Psalm 103:1-11

- ℒ *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,*
- ☐ **Bless his holy name!**
- ℒ *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,*
- ☐ **Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,**
- ℒ *Who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,*
- ☐ **Who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.**
- ℒ *The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.*
- ☐ **He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.**

ℓ *The LORD is merciful and gracious,*

☑ **Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

ℓ *He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.*

☑ **He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

ℓ *For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*

☑ **So great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.**

Closing Prayer

Our Father, you have sent your only Son to be our Savior and through faith in his name we have been adopted as your sons and daughters. By the power of your Spirit help us to reflect the holiness of your name in our thoughts, words and actions. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, Amen.

For next time

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin (James 4:13-17).

What is said in these verses about the Lord’s will?

Our Father

The Imprint of a Prayer

A 6 SESSION **BIBLE STUDY** ON THE LORD'S PRAYER



Focus closely on each petition of the Lord's Prayer in this six-week Bible study for Lent or any time of the year. Searching the rich biblical meaning behind the familiar phrases of the prayer our Lord taught us, this study reveals the ways in which each petition bears the imprint of the life of Christ. Each session includes Scripture readings, questions for discussion, prayers and suggested activities for devotion and service.

