

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

## Small Group Questions

The Sermon on the Mount is recorded in Matthew 5-7. You might want to read the entire sermon as part of your personal preparation for this study.

- ❖ If you grew up reciting the Lord's Prayer in church or your home, how was this prayer used? *If you did not grow up with this prayer, what is your perception of how it is understood and used by Christians?*

### DIG INTO THE WORD

1. Read Matthew 6:5-13. Jesus wanted His disciples to know the importance of prayer. What does he tell them? What are the general themes in the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5-7? How does that impact the teaching of the Lord's Prayer?
2. What are the "big themes" that Jesus is teaching us to focus on as we pray? Which theme do you find most natural for you to pray about? How do you enter into prayer about this topic or theme? Which theme in the Lord's Prayer tends to get neglected as you engage in conversations with God? How do you hope this study will help you go deeper in this area of your prayer life?
3. Read Romans 8:15-17. How different would the Lord's Prayer be if it had started "MY Father who art in heaven. . . ?" What makes it possible to address God as "Our Father?"
4. Read Luke 11:9-13. What sorts of things does our Father in heaven want to do for his children?
5. Read Exodus 20:1-7. What comes to mind when you hear the word "holy"? The very first request states that God's name is to be hallowed, literally, "set apart." What do these verses teach about God's character?
6. Read Luke 12:22-32. Why do we sometimes think that God's kingdom and our kingdoms can coexist happily? What happens when we try to accommodate both in our lives? What hinders God's kingdom among us?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 and Ephesians 6:10-18. What are some specific ways you can pray for the kingdom of God to 1) break into your life on every level, 2) be unleashed within our church and 3) impact our culture and society?
8. Take time as a group to pray, using the Lord's Prayer to guide you. First, recite the prayer in unison together.
  - Rule #1:** Read in monotone without any hint of emotion.
  - Rule #2:** Keep your mind vacant. Don't actually think about what you're reading. Pretend you are reading numbers from a phone book.

**Rule #3:** Whatever you do, don't be the first one to start reading a new line. Nobody else might join you and you'll be speaking all alone.  
Just kidding! Read the Lord's Prayer with engaged minds and open hearts as your lips express some of the most beautiful words ever spoken.

"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." (Matthew 6:9-13)

Next, have someone read each line of the Lord's Prayer and then offer up brief prayers that grow naturally out of that portion of the prayer.

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>March 10</b>
Week 2	March 17
Week 3	March 24
Week 4	March 31
Week 5	April 7