



Digging Deeper:

This week is all about prayer. In Matthew 6 beginning in verse 9, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray like this (King James Version):

*Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Living Translation, translates it this way:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

Activity:

Read John 6:44

As a family, brainstorm some people who you would like to know Jesus and perhaps come to a Christmas service with you. Choose a time you will pray for those people, choose a verse, and pray for them. Don't forget to pray for opportunities for you to invite and share with them.

- Father, in the name of Jesus, I plead that You will draw _____ to Jesus Christ in true faith and repentance (*John 6:44*).
- Lord Jesus, I plead that You will seek out _____ and save him/her from his/her sins and eternal condemnation (*Luke 19:10*).
- Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus, I plead that the Word of God will take root in _____'s life and bring about true salvation in _____'s life (*Matthew 13:6, 20-21*).
- Father, I pray that _____ will receive the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ the Lord (*Romans 6:23*).
- Lord God, I plead that You would grant _____ genuine faith, a faith that trusts in Jesus alone and surrenders to Him as Lord and Savior (*Ephesians 2:8-10*).
- Father, I pray that You will send people continually into _____'s life who will share the gospel with him/her (*Romans 10:14*).

If this is how Jesus taught us to pray, it would make sense that as we focus on prayer, that we would look at this teaching. Consider some of the key components of His prayer and talk about each part.

1. Acknowledging the greatness of God
2. Expressing a desire for God's Kingdom
3. Acknowledging God's will as sovereign
4. Asking for our needs
5. Asking forgiveness
6. Granting forgiveness
7. Asking for protection
8. Acknowledging the greatness of God

Now, go back through each component. Take turns praying for each category on this list above, only make it relevant to your situation today. Please don't feel limited by this list, just use it as a jumping off point.

Enjoy this week of focus on prayer... For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen