



Growth Group Discussion Questions

14. See first the Kingdom of God

Read Matthew 6:7-13

1. The opening line of the Lord's Prayer is 'Our Father who is in heaven'. ***In order to remind ourselves, discuss what great things God has done for us in order for us to truly pray 'Our Father in heaven'?***
2. ***What should our overriding response be as sinners and orphans who have been adopted by God and brought into such close fellowship with the Trinity? Hint: see 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***
3. ***What can we learn from the order of the prayers in the Lord's Prayer? Why is it arranged this way?***
4. May Your name be Hallowed. ***What does this prayer ask God to do? In what practical ways can we seek the fame of His name?***
- 5.** May Your kingdom come. ***What does this prayer ask God to do? In what practical ways can we seek His kingdom to grow on earth?***
- 6.** May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ***What does this prayer ask God to do? In what practical ways can we seek His will to be done on earth?***

Leaders Notes

1. Our FATHER in heaven – shows us that God has adopted us. When we have faith in Jesus Christ, we become children of God. And of course, adoption is entirely by the choice and will of the Adopter not the Adoptee. God has lavished incredible grace upon us because He chose to make us His children and adopted us. We are phenomenally blessed to be able to call the Creator of the Universe 'Father'. And this is who we really are: children of God.

OUR Father in heaven – tells us that we are caught up into the love relationship that eternally exists between the Three Persons of the Trinity. Our – means that Jesus Christ shares His Father with us. This is why the Bible calls Jesus 'our Brother'. And He is not ashamed to call us that. It is the Spirit that applies this truth to us, objectively, He unites us with Jesus by faith, and subjectively, he pours out the love of the Father in our hearts. This is what God has generously done for every believer.

Our Father IN HEAVEN – opens up eternity to us. We have a rock solid hope and future. This relationship with God will last forever. 'In Heaven' also reminds us that our Father is sovereign and rules over everything, so what can we possibly have to fear? All these are our awesome blessings we have in being children of God!

2. Since God has done such extraordinary things for us, the overriding feature of every Christians should be rejoicing and thankfulness.
3. The order of the Lord's Prayer is clear: God's fame, glory, kingdom and honour are the first order of priority for the disciple/adopted child of God. Only afterwards do we pray for ourselves and our good. The reason for this is because this is the correct way to show gratitude for all that God has done for us.
4. Here we ask God to vindicate His name. God's reputation has been brought into disrepute by Satan, who constantly breathes out lies about Him. Also, sin is a great question mark over God's name. How can a good God allow evil into the world? And above all, sin and evil bring God's reputation as a Good Father into question. Is He a Good Father or isn't He? So, to pray that His name be hallowed means to ask Him to vindicate His name – that He destroys evil, deals with sin and overcomes all opposition against Himself. And, in order to be a Good Father, He will have to save His people from the mess they have made. This is why throughout the Bible God says He does good things for His people for the sake of His name. e.g. see Psalm 23:3. Practically as a church we can seek His glory by speaking highly of Him, correcting wrong ideas about Him, seeking to be saved by Him, reaching out to others so that they may be saved by Him, praying this prayer at our Revive Prayer meeting on Thursdays at 6:30am and in our Growth Groups, financially supporting churches where God's name is held in highest esteem, singing His praises loudly etc... The Growth Group will come up with lots more ideas.
5. In this petition we ask God to extend His rule over all the earth. God's rule is rejected by the spiritual world and by the world of human beings – thank God that the animal kingdom still submits to His rule! In this prayer we pray that God will bring order to the chaotic world that has resulted because of our rage against Him. In particular, God has promised to restore His rule through His chosen Ruler – the Son of God. The gospel tells us that this Ruler is Jesus. So, to pray this prayer is to pray that Jesus Christ will extend His reign over more and more people. This prayer is a prayer for evangelism. It is a prayer that people will be saved and come under the reign of Jesus Christ. Practically, we can pray for missionaries, for our Winterfest outreach, for our Sunday Services that more people would come and be saved, for our Youth ministry, for specific people at our work, school, etc. and for our preachers and teachers. Practically, we can invite people to come and hear about Jesus. We can also serve within our various giftings so

that NCC can be better at reaching out to others. No doubt the Growth Group will also have some practical ways we can see His rule extend everywhere.

6. Here we ask God that heaven would come on earth – basically. In heaven, God’s will is done but not on earth. So we pray that His plans and His purposes will be fulfilled on earth and that all will conform to His will. When this happens heaven and earth will merge. We know His will is righteousness and goodness and whatever contributes to the thriving of His children whom He loves. As you read the Sermon on the Mount, you see what Jesus delights in, what His will is. So this prayer asks that evil be restrained and more and more people get saved AND start to live in a way that pleases God – i.e. that His will be done. And, above all else, we know that God’s will for us is that we be saved. That we become His children. This was His will that Jesus came to enforce – to die for us and bring us to God. Before we do anything for God, we must make sure that we are truly Christians – this is God’s will for us. Practically – be saved! Turn to God and ask Him to adopt you as His child and put your trust in Jesus. Practically, we pray for our growth in godliness individually and corporately as a Church. Pray that God will lead us in a direction pleasing to Him. Pray against the sin that so easily trips us all up. Pray that the people in our church will become more and more Christ-like in all their words and actions. Pray that God will help us lay down our own wills and seek only His will. Hopefully the Growth Group will have more practical ideas to share.