



Our Father – Message 1

Announcements

She Believes Groups // Women, starting March 12th, take your group on a 5-week study that will build your faith, encourage your heart and strengthen your relationship with God! Author Debbie Lindell will be our speaker at Women's Night (March 6th). Buy your book at the Bookstore for \$10. Go to ChurchoftheKing.com/wn to learn more.

Fight Groups // Men, host a Fight group, starting March 26th. This study is a 5-week journey that will equip you to fight the battles you must win; the ones that determine the state of your heart, the quality of your marriages, and the spiritual health of those you love most. Go to ChurchoftheKing.com/mn to learn more.

Warm-up

Choose one or both of the warm-up questions to discuss.

- What is a home project, craft or hobby that you tried that didn't go so well?
- What is something important a grandparent or older mentor taught you?

Word and Application

Today and through the next five weeks we are going to discover the true power behind the simple prayer Jesus taught the Disciples many centuries ago. The goal of this series is to both uncover the power behind the prayer, and give you some practical steps on how to pray.

As Americans, we are taught to be self-reliant and independent at a young age. How would you say our society views prayer today? In your own words, what is the purpose of prayer?

God delights in answering the prayers of his people; He wants to answer your prayers. Who better to teach us about prayer than Jesus, God himself? Throughout his life, Jesus lived a life of prayer, giving us many examples to follow.

Read Mark 1:35, Matthew 14:23 and Luke 22:39-40. What do these three passages communicate about Jesus' prayer life?

After observing Jesus' commitment and passion towards prayer, one of his disciples asks in **Luke 11:1**, "Lord, teach us to pray..." **Read Jesus' response in Matthew 6:9-13.**

The Lord's prayer, or more aptly, *The Disciple's Prayer*, reveals principles, power and promises of God. Over the next five weeks, we look at **Six Key Elements of the Lord's Prayer**.

1. Our Father... Living the Promises.
2. Thy Kingdom Come... Priorities.
3. Daily Bread... Provision for Life.
4. Forgive... Pardoning those that have hurt us.
5. Temptation... Having Power to Overcome.
6. The Glory... Praising God and living grateful.

This week we start at the beginning and at the center of the Lord's Prayer with *Our Father*. Why do you think Jesus taught his disciples to pray to *Our Father*? What does this say about the relationship we, as Believers, have with God?

Jesus first establishes to whom we pray (God, our Father) and the position from which we pray (as sons and daughters). No matter what our personal view is of an earthly father, Jesus testifies to the character of our heavenly Father, a father who is kind, compassionate and loving. When we focus first on *Our Father*, we can discover how to live a life of prayer.

1. **Clear up your perspective of God.**

You will only desire to spend time with God to the degree you believe He has your best intentions in mind. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

Read Psalm 103:8, John 14:8-9 and Zephaniah 3:17. Do either of these scriptures surprise you about the character of God? How has your perspective of God changed over the years? How can we practically grab hold of the truth of who God is?

2. **Understand the person of God.**

When you know the person, the character, and the nature of God, you will grasp the promises of God.

Read Matthew 6:9. The definition of *hallowed* is *to be made holy, or set apart from the common*. Knowing this is how God defines his name, how does this influence your understanding of God?

3. **Embrace the promises of God.**

God reveals himself through his names. The Names of God often reveal the promises of God. Therefore, when we pray through the names of God, we can also pray his promises. Here are eight names that demonstrate this exercise. Which of these promises of God most resonates with you or to a particular situation in your life *today*?

- The Lord, our righteousness // Jehovah-Tsidkneu // Jeremiah 23:5-6
- The Lord, our sanctification // Jehovah-Mekaddishkem // Exodus 31:13
- The Lord is near // Jehovah-Shammah // Ezekiel 48:35
- The Lord, our peace // Jehovah-Shalom // Judges 6:24
- The Lord, our healer // Jehovah-Rapha // Exodus 15:25
- The Lord, our provision // Jehovah-Jireh // Genesis 22:14
- The Lord, our banner // Jehovah-Nissi // Exodus 17:15-16
- The Lord, our shepherd // Jehova-Roi // Psalm 23

This week, practice praying the names and promises of God. To dive deeper, look up the corresponding verse for each.

Prayer

Our Father, thank you for giving us direct access to you through Jesus, your Holy Spirit and prayer. Enrich our prayer life with you, teach us your character, and help us stand on your promises. Give us a deeper connection with you, Lord. Pray for the specific needs of the group.