

Matthew 6:9-15 (New International Version)

⁵"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹"This, then, is how you should pray:

" Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

¹⁰your kingdom come,

your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us today our daily bread.

¹²Forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.^[a]

¹⁴For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Footnotes:

- a. [Matthew 6:13](#) Or from evil; some late manuscripts one, / for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OASIS: The Lord's Prayer, Mt. 6: 9-15

(Special note: *This is our 2nd of 2 studies on the Lord's Prayer. In the last one, we looked closely at the context, as that really helped us appreciate Jesus' refreshing and personal approach to God, our Father. In this week's study, we will now drill down on the 5 "key phrases" within the Lord's Prayer. We want to understand each phrase so that we can pray this prayer with maximum heart and mind. We also want to grasp the underlying insights so that we can continually deepen our relationship with God.*)

Possible Starter question: How often do you think we should pray the Lord's Prayer? Why?

Transitional comment: **We don't know how often Jesus and his disciples used it. We really don't—but it is a great prayer in particular and a great pattern for praying in general.**

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading (if you haven't already prayed)
- Now read the text first silently and then listen as someone reads it aloud.

First phrase—verse 9: Our Father...

O Whose Father is it?

I What is implied by *our*? (*n.b. the plural and Jesus' inclusion of himself*)

I What does the location of *in heaven* communicate? (*n.b. the home/residence and the transcendence of God, our Father*).

I What does "hallowed" mean? (*n.b. a dictionary can serve this purpose—to respect or greatly honor; revere*)

A How can we hallow God's name?

Second phrase—verse 10: your kingdom...

O What do we learn about God's kingdom and God's will in this phrase?

I In what ways has God's kingdom come already but not completely? (*n.b. Biblical scholars call this "the already, not yet." God's kingdom has definitely begun where and when people respond to the King. But it will not be until Christ's final return that the Kingdom will be fully fulfilled. See Lk. 11:20 and 17:21 for the already reality.*)

A What are some practical expressions of the current reality of the Kingdom for you? (*n.b. living his will now and being empowered by the Spirit*).

Third phrase—verse 11: Give us...

O What do you observe about time in this phrase?

I What words might we need to substitute for *bread*?

A Why is this phrase so hard for us?

Fourth phrase—verse 12: Forgive us...(n.b. *sins* is an adequate replacement for *debts*)

O What does Jesus expect God to do and us to do? In what ways do vs. 14 and 15 emphasize or expand upon this idea?

I Why is forgiveness such a central dynamic to the kingdom?

A Give people a minute to pray that God would make clear the names of anyone that they need to forgive. *Encourage them to silently pray.*

Fifth phrase—verse 13: And lead us not...

O This is a verse about two competing powers. Who are the “players”?

I What are some ways that we can allow God to lead us away from temptation and to deliver us?

Summary/conclusion:

A Which phrase of this prayer is most needed by you now?

A Let’s pray this together again, slowly and thoughtfully.

Text is on other page or www.Biblegateway.com

- a. BIG idea: Learning to pray, Jesus’ way.
- b. Key verse/idea: take your pick! It is all pretty important!
- c. Today’s text is about talking with God.
- d. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge).

Advice to study leaders:

- a. Complement your OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? What do others of you see/think?)
- b. Always reword questions in language/word choice that is comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn’t make sense to you, then drop it.)
- c. When you ask questions, how quickly do people answer or respond? How long do you wait? (Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation-- and avoid answering your own questions!)
- d. Pace the study—move on—conclude with “difference making” application.
- e. Timing: allocate your time and move forward gently but steadily.
- f. Determine the core questions you will ask (know which ones to skip if pressed for time).
- g. Secondary texts—be very sparing in your usage of other texts, even though they may be relevant. That tends to push you more into the “teaching” role, rather than the role of facilitator. It can cause some people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- h. If you are utilizing this “on-line” study and not part of OASIS, I recommend that you get the IVP one volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary (21st Century Edition). It is well worth the \$40.