

How to Pray: Our Father
Isaiah 64:6–9; Romans 8:15–17
September 30, 2018

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Ice Breaker!

What's one of the most inspiring things you've experienced?

One thing that motivates me to pray:

- A good crisis.
- I can do it anywhere.
- I know someone is always listening.
- I can say it any way I need to.
- Honestly, this is a challenge for me.
- I hope they stop playing that Nae Nae song someday soon.
- Other: _____

Discussion!

Prayer is something that most people are familiar with. So we look around culture we see lots of people praying. Athletes thank God when they win something, musicians thank God at the VMA's, and our everyone seems to pray when they face hardship. So with that said, God gives us a specific way to pray. Jesus literally says "Pray like this"! So lets look at how Jesus tells us to pray.

Read Matthew 6:9-13 (on back page)

How is this prayer different from the ones we see out in the world?

Today, we'll look at the first sentence of Jesus' instructions and make three observations:

"Our Father in heaven..." (Matthew 6:9 ESV)

1. God is our Father.

Question: Why is it important to remember that God is a loving Father and not a difficult boss or slave driver?

- If God is our Father, then we are His children
- This means that God loves us
- It means we can approach God with confidence
- We have a powerful loving Father
- Other: _____

We tend to forget that God is our loving Father, which of these things do you tend to do that reveal your own forgetfulness?

- I left my homework at home once. Oh, wait, what was the question?
- I tend to live on a success/ fail basis with God.
- I count my good deeds as my good standing with God.
- I tend to be motivated by obligation, not love.
- I get defensive when accused of error or sin.
- I like to compare myself with others.
- Other: _____

What are some things you can do to remember that God is your loving Father?

2. God is in Heaven.

Because God is in Heaven, this has implications on our prayers:

- Our prayers are cosmic
- God is All-Powerful
- God is All-Knowing

Question: Can you think of any more implications that God's presence in Heaven has on our prayer life?

3. Prayer is also communal.

Jesus doesn't say pray, "my" Father or "your" Father, he says pray, "our" Father. If God is our Father it means that we are also brothers and sisters in Christ. He is our Father, there is no lone wolfs in the kingdom, we are in this together, we need others and others need us.

Question: How would you describe your life in community right now?

- Unconnected
- I love my brothers and sisters
- I'm looking for ways to serve
- I wish they were all Ole Miss fans, but other than that things are great.
- I've got some bitterness and anger that I'm sorting out.
- Other: _____

Question: Name one thing you can do to get more connected to God's family?

Matthew 6:9-13 ESV

[9] Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. [10] Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. [11] Give us this day our daily bread, [12] and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. [13] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.