

WHEN WE PRAY

Discussion guide | Luke 11:1-4

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Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ²And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

Starter:

- Look over your journal from Week 1 and share a couple of insights that you had as you meditated on God as Father.
- How has approaching God as Father prepared your heart for the next movements of the Lord’s prayer?
- What obstacles are you encountering as you approach God in this way?
- What is the significance of Jesus instructing us to approach God as Father?

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6 P's

1. Presence – “Father”
2. Praise – “Hallowed be your name”
3. Purpose – “Your kingdom come”
4. Provision – “Give us each day our daily bread”
5. Pardon – “and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us
6. Protection – “And lead us not into temptation.”

Digging Deeper:

- What does the word “hallowed” mean?

In his book, “You Are What You Love,” James K.A. Smith identifies that to be human is to worship, to praise.

- Do you agree with his statement?
- Do you believe all humans were created to worship God? Why or why not?
- If so, why does there seem to be such a division, even among Christians in the things that we worship?

In Counterfeit Gods, Tim Keller writes, “The human heart” is an “idol factory” that takes good things like a successful career, love, material possessions, even family, and turns them into ultimate things. Our hearts deify them as the center of our lives, because, we think, they can give us significance and security, safety and fulfillment, if we attain them.”

- What are some examples of this in our culture? What about in your own life and pursuits?

Augustine called this “disordered love”. He believed [I think he is right] that our problem isn't necessarily that we love the wrong things. It's that we often love the right things in the wrong order.

- How does this insight influence your thinking on the priorities in your own life?
- What does this have to do with prayer?
- How is the 1st of the 10 commandments, “you shall have no other gods before me,” a gatekeeper for not breaking the other commands?

On Sunday, Kyle expressed that the things we worship in our lives above God will only become smaller as the praise for the God we worship grows.

- What do you think he meant by that?

Practicing Praise

Praise His name with your thoughts.

Deuteronomy 6:12

Then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Deuteronomy 8:2

And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

- Why does God constantly tell the Israelites to remember his attributes, character, and faithfulness?
- How can meditating on the specifics of God's nature grow the depth of our prayers?

Here are a few of the many names of God in Scripture. Take some time to meditate on these names and write down how you see God in Scripture and your own life

Jehovah-Jireh which means, "the Lord who will provide."

- How has he provided?

Jehovah-Rapha "the Lord our healer"

- What healing have you experienced?

Jehovah-Roi "the Lord our Shepherd"

- How has he guided you?

Jehovah-Shammah "the Lord is present"

- How have you experienced his presence?

Jehovah-Meqaddeskem "the Lord who sanctifies"

- You are not who you once were! How have you seen God mature your faith?

Praise His name with your words

Psalms 103:1-5

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

- Why would God command us to praise him with words and with singing?

C.S. Lewis said of praise...

"I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation."

- How does speaking and singing of the greatness of God complete the joy?
- How does this change the way that you look at praising God, especially through song?

Spend some time in worship together. Listen to "Yahweh" by Cory Asbury or another worship song that might be meaningful to you.

- What were the lines in the song that caught your attention?
- How did these words express what's in your heart?