

WHEN WE PRAY

Discussion guide | Luke 11:1-4

Luke 11:1-4

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:

- What has been your personal experience with the Lord’s Prayer?
- How is the Lord’s Prayer different from other prayers we might pray?
- How is this prayer both simple and complex?

This prayer is made up of 6 movements – we have conveniently labeled these with the letter P.

6 P’s

1. Presence – “Father”
2. Praise – “Hallowed be your name”
3. Purpose – “Your kingdom come”
4. Provision – “Give s 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”

- Which of these movements most characterizes your personal prayer time?
- Which of these movements least characterizes your personal prayer time?
- How do these movements challenge us to expand what we pray for and how we pray?

Presence – “Father”

- What is the significance of Jesus instructing us to approach God as Father?

Digging Deeper:

Read: John 1:11-13

11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

- What is John the Apostle telling the believer in this text?
- How are we given the right to become children of God?

Read: Romans 8:14-15

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

- How are God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit all involved in our adoption into the family of God?

On Sunday, Kyle talked about the challenge of really believing that we are adopted and part of God’s family. He used an example of how it’s easy to view the relationship in terms of a business deal vs. a family relationship.

A business transaction – the basis of the relationship is summarized by “I have something for you, and you have something for me.” That’s the basis.

But a family relationship is much different – it’s not, “I have something for you” rather it’s “I am someone to you.”

In business relationships, there is an expectation of performance – “you perform for me, and I perform for you.”

In a family relationship, this basis is commitment – it’s an unconditional relationship, one that cannot be earned or taken away by performance.

- Do you ever approach God in prayer as a business transaction? If so, what's an example?
- How does knowing that Jesus instructs us to approach God as Father cement the family relationship?

Moving Forward

Re-Read - Romans 8:15

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

- Spend some time in prayer.
- Thank God the Father that He invites and desires that you call him, Abba, Father.
- Praise Jesus the Son that he has done everything to bring you into the Family of God.
- Ask the Holy Spirit that He would continue to testify to these truths in your heart.