



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

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| Series Theme: | Lord, Teach Us to Pray |
| Text for the Week: | Matthew 6:9 |
| Message for the Week: | Remembering Our Address |
| Theme for the Week: | Addressing our God in prayer |

Week 2

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What was your nickname or term of affection for your dad?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Matthew 6:9](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What titles do we use today to show respect?

What term do you use to show affection for another person?

What names or titles do you use when addressing God in prayer? Why?

How does/has your relationship with your earthly father affected your relationship with your heavenly Father?

What do we learn about God, our Father, from the father in the [parable of the prodigal son](#)?

How does/should the fact that we have brothers and sisters affect our praying?

When you pray, how often do you use singular pronouns (I, me, my)? How often do you use plural pronouns (we, our, us)? Why do you think this is the case?

“Try It!”

During this worship series on prayer, we are going to be experimenting with different prayer practices each week:

Practice #2: Plural Pronouns

This week, as you continue spending 3-5 minutes in prayer, three times a day (morning, noon, night), try and use only plural pronouns in your prayers. Instead of using I, me, and my, use we, us, and our in your prayers.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

Pray this prayer together:

“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 today 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 the evil one.”

Matthew 6:9-13 NIV

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Kingdom Prayers

During the month of January, pray this prayer each day, multiple times throughout your day:

Lord, we pray for an outpouring of your Holy Spirit that you would...

REVEAL Christ to us,

SHAPE us in the character of Christ, and

EQUIP us for the mission of Christ. *Amen*

If you would like a background photo of this prayer for the home screen of your phone, please contact the church office and we will email it to you.

Matthew 6:9 New International Version

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,

Matthew 6:9 The Message

With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply.

Like this:

Our Father in heaven,

Luke 15:11-32

New International Version

The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"