

03.02.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “The Disciples Prayer – What Are We Taking Away from our Journey Through It Together?”

Scripture Reading: [Matthew 6: 9–13](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

For the past 2 months, all of us embarked on a journey through the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. During his teaching on prayer in his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells his disciples and the others who are gathered around him, “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.

¹²And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation,^[a]

but deliver us from the evil one.^[b] [NIV]

This week, we come to the end of our 2-month journey through this prayer Jesus taught each of us to pray. As we do, what are you taking away from journey together? As you [listened to Pastor Doug’s messages](#) on each of the phrases/petitions of this prayer and as you worked through the [weekly spiritual formation guides](#) either alone or with your family or with your discipleship group, what did the Holy Spirit of God reveal to you? What did the Spirit of God allow your eyes to see, your ears to hear, and your heart to feel? How is this prayer Jesus taught us to pray forming and shaping you spiritually?

In one discipleship group I am a part of, we talked about these questions together. Here are a few ‘summaries’ of some of the things the people in that group are taking away from our journey together.

- Plural Pronouns – “There is not a single I, me, or my (singular personal pronouns) in the entire prayer. The pronouns are all Our, Your, Us, or We. How often in my prayers do I use plural, communal pronouns (we, us, our)? How often in my prayers do I use singular, personal, possessive pronouns (I, me, my)?”
- 50/50 split – “The first half of the prayer is all about God. It is about our Abba Father in Heaven, the holiness of God’s name and character. It is about God’s Kingdom. It is about God will. It’s about God’s Kingdom coming and God will be done, not mine. The second half is about our dependence upon God for our provision, for forgiveness, and for God’s leading. All of us need these 3 things every day. How often do the prayers that I pray, reflect these percentages? 50% focused on God? 50% focused on our dependence on God?”
- “Lead...US” – “Without God leading me, without God leading us, I/we will be able to convince ourselves of most anything and have no trouble leading myself/ourselves into temptation, away from God’s

kingdom and will. We need the Spirit of God to lead all of us so that we can 'see' and discern the kingdom and will of God clearly. We need each other."

- "Our Father" – "Our Abba Father. When we pray, we are praying to personal, loving, relational, caring God who is concerned about us, who wants a relationship with us, who wants to converse with us."
- "Daily" – "Each and every day, we need to pray for the three things Jesus taught us to pray for. Each day, God, provide the things we need to live. Give us the bread of life. Each day, God, give me a forgiving heart that extends forgiveness to others, and receives forgiveness from God. Each day, God, Lead me. Don't let me drive the bus. You drive the bus. Each day, you lead. Each day, enable me to follow."

What are you taking away from our journey through this prayer? How is our journey together changing the way you are praying?

Prayer:

"Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored.
May your kingdom come.
May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us.
Keep us from sinning when we are tempted.
Save us from the evil one.'

-New International Readers Version

Action Item for the Day/Week:

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

Practice #8: Spend some time rewriting the Disciple's Prayer (Lord's Prayer) in your own words.

Song for today:

[The Lord's Prayer](#)

