

Hope Church Small Group Study Guide
11-05-17 Sermon “The Lord’s Prayer” –Matthew 6:5-13

- Begin with prayer.**

Context of the Sermon on the Mount:

Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount is revealing the true meaning of the Law. He’s also revealing the state of our hearts and showing us the magnitude of our sin.

Jesus preaches this sermon to show us how much we are in need of Him.

The Law shows us our need for a Savior and reveals our inability, apart from Christ, to do anything that pleases God.

For those who are believers, in the freedom of Christ, the law now becomes our gentle teacher and guide.

Discussion Questions:

Over the years what has been your understanding of “The Law”? Why is it necessary for us? How has God’s law been a guide and teacher for you?

Jesus’ Teaching on Prayer:

- Read through Matthew 6:5-13

In verses 5-7 Jesus begins by talking about right motives for prayer.

Once again, Jesus is revealing to us the state of heart and how desperately we need a Savior to free us from our selfish ways, wants, and desires.

Discussion Questions:

Why is it so easy to pray me centered prayers? Is it always wrong to pray selfish prayers? Where’s the line?

Jesus continues His teaching on prayer by encouraging us to ask God for what we need:

Do not be like them (hypocrites and gentiles), for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. – Matthew 6:8

Michael Cariño writes:

Prayer is a great privilege and a great responsibility for believers. While it is true that God is in-charge of what is happening in the world, **prayer is something God allows us to participate in regarding His sovereign work in our midst**

Discussion Questions:

If God already knows what we need, why bother praying?

How does it encourage you to know that God already knows what we need?

How does it encourage you to know that prayer is a responsibility and a privilege?

Focus of the Lord’s Prayer

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

-Matthew 6:9

- Jesus brings us to the heart of Christian prayer, both with regard to its pattern and its content. **He is giving us a model that we are to build our prayers from. It is a pattern by which we are to follow.**

“Our Father in heaven”

- Jesus is revealing that God is not a Judge or tyrant who is out to get us. Rather He is a Father who deeply loves and wants what is best for his children.

God being our Father means:

- He's **committed** to us as His children.
- He **knows** who we are and He's **chosen** to know us intimately.
- He's **consistent**. He'll never change and He'll always be our Father.
- He'll **provide** for our needs and **protects** us from evil.
- He'll **listen** for us when we call to Him.
- He'll **equip** us to live in this world, and
- He'll **love** us unconditionally, no matter what.

Discussion Question:

How does it encourage and fuel your prayers to know that we are praying to our Father?

“Hallowed be your name”

Hallow means to praise, extol, and honor both in word and deed.

As we come to God in prayer, we should come in a posture of praise and thankfulness, exalting God for Who He is.

Yet, there's another aspect to praying “Hallowed be your name.”

Martin Luther writes:

*“What is it to pray that God's name may become holy? Is it not already holy? Answer: Yes, in its essence it is always holy, **but our use of it is not holy.**”*

“God's name is hallowed when the Word of God is taught clearly and purely and we, as God's children, also live holy lives according to it.”

Satan wants nothing more than to defame God's name and destroy God's reputation. When we pray “Hallowed be your name”, we are praying, “God show us your holiness, your power, and your might. Overcome the doubts and fears Satan plants in our hearts, so that we can continue to give Your name the honor it is due.”

When we pray “Hallowed be your name”, we are also asking that God's nature and character would be manifested within and through our lives.

Discussion Questions:

What doubts or fears does the enemy tend to plant in your heart and mind? How can you set your mind on the truth of God's Word?

How can you seek to honor God's name in and through your life?

Remember that in the freedom of Christ, the law becomes our gentle guide and teacher. Apart from Christ, we can't live the holy lives God calls us to live.

Throughout His teaching on prayer, Jesus is reminding us of our need for Him.

This week, take time to rest in the completed work of Christ, remembering that apart from Him, we can do nothing.

Prayer points:

- Pray that we would rest in Christ and trust that He is at work in us, molding and shaping us into the people God has called us to be.
- Pray that we as a congregation would understand what it means to *honor God's name* in and through our lives.