



WHAT DOES JESUS SAY ABOUT PRAYER?

Praying the Lord's Prayer

Day 1 – Our

Praying “Our Father” helps us realize we’re part of a family. The prayer Jesus teaches us is about – us. Pay attention to the communal focus of the Lord’s prayer. How does it engage all of God’s creation? How does it guide you to see beyond the boundaries and barriers that seem to divide us? Can you pray yourself into deeper community?

Day 2 – Name

Jesus gives us the awesome responsibility of keeping God’s name hallowed, which also means to keep hallowed the name of Jesus. This means to “carry” the name well. Many of us grow up with a sense of what our own names mean in relationship to values that have been passed down to us. In the same way, carrying the name of Jesus well means to live into the teachings, instructions, and values of Jesus. As you pray the Lord’s Prayer today, ask yourself if you are carrying the name of Jesus well. Has your life kept God’s name hallowed?

Day 3 – Come

Jesus’ prayer is within the context of a kingdom, which for our modern ears is not the easiest to understand. But this context would have been readily accessible to his earliest disciples. Jesus spends an enormous amount of his teaching time helping his disciples understand that God has a desired outcome for creation. Creation is not just on a random path. There is purpose, and that purpose is for God’s kingdom to come. This is not supposed to be merely a concept, or something that happens after we die. It’s a reality for us to experience now. But in order for the kingdom to come, we are called into active participation and partnership with God. As you pray, make an honest reflection. Whose kingdom are you praying for?





Day 4 – Will

Heaven is certainly surrounded in mystery, but we generally understand Heaven as a place or time when no one is hungry, thirsty, bullied, or suffering. God's will is healing and wholeness. The mind-blowing part of this prayer is Jesus' suggestion that what happens in heaven can exist on earth. As you pray today, reflect on how you've been witness to God's will done here on earth, the same as it would be done in heaven.

Day 5 – Give

Jesus was talking to people, often day laborers, whose families depended on daily work for daily meals. The boldness of this prayer suggests that God's desire is for everyone to have what they need to live. Basic sustenance doesn't always feel like a given, but in this prayer it's God's expectation. We are called to bring the kingdom to people living from meal to meal. But what does this part of the prayer say to those who don't need to search for bodily sustenance? The prayer is the same. What do you need? Love? Hope? Healing? Be just as bold as you pray today.

Day 6 – Forgive

One way to translate the Greek word "forgive" is "to send away from one's self." Forgiving is about freeing yourself from the situation creating brokenness in your life. Holding onto that brokenness sticks you in a cul-de-sac of darkness and pain, spinning you around and around. When you let go and send the brokenness away from yourself, you can live as God created you (more of that heaven on earth stuff). As you pray today, reflect on the healing and wholeness that can happen if you actually push your hands out and send your darkness and pain away. It's not magic, so it takes practice. It's a daily sending away, until it's sent . . . away.

Day 7 – Rescue

Jesus recognizes the deep spiritual conflicts in the world. Temptation exists in each of us to do the very things we should not do, and to not do the very things we should do, instead of living out the call for which we have been created. Jesus also knows that this was not just something we can decide to overcome on our own. There is a deep need for rescue by our creator. This petition recognizes our need for a savior. As you pray the Lord's Prayer today, name those places in your life where you need rescue, and stand before God with your petition.

