

GOSPEL COMMUNITY GUIDE

Life WITH God : The Lord's Prayer | Our Father

Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:1-13 | October 19, 2025



CONNECT

When you hear the word “father,” what kind of images or feelings come to mind (without overthinking it)?

QUICK UPDATES

Share any upcoming church events and handle housekeeping for the Gospel Community.

REVIEW

Have someone read the passage out loud from the ESV translation or something similar. Reflect on any insights, questions, or parts that stood out from the text or the sermon. Then read the summary below.

This week, we turn to the opening words of the Lord's Prayer: “Our Father in heaven.” Before we ask anything of God, Jesus invites us to remember who God is, and who we are to Him. Through Christ, we are adopted into God's family: loved, secured, and included. We no longer come as outsiders or orphans, but as sons and daughters who belong. A praying life begins here, with confidence that our Father delights in us, provides for us, and never leaves us alone.

LEARN & LIVE

These questions help us grasp the truth of the passage and consider how to live it out.

- Read Matthew 6:9. Why do you think Jesus begins prayer with the words “Our Father in heaven”?
- How does understanding God as Father shape the rest of the Lord's Prayer?
- According to John 1:12–13, what does it mean to be “children of God”? How does that connect to the idea of adoption?
- The sermon said “Heaven” refers both to God's nature (holy) and position (ruler). How do those two truths balance our view of God?
- What does it change in how we relate to God, that we can call the holy, sovereign God “Father” because of Jesus?
- Romans 8:15–17 says the Spirit enables us to cry “Abba, Father.” What does that reveal about the kind of relationship God wants with us?
- How does Jesus' teaching about the lilies and the birds (Matthew 6:25–30) reinforce the security of being God's children?
- Why is the word “Our” significant in “Our Father”? What does it teach us about community in prayer?
- Discuss the difference between living like orphans and living like sons and daughters.
- How might praying “Our Father” reshape the way we think about both God and the church?

GO DEEPER

These questions invite us to slow down and wrestle with what's going on beneath the surface. Use these to go a little deeper or in your Huddle Groups.

- How has your own experience with earthly fathers (good or painful) shaped the way you imagine God as Father?
- When you pray, which of the four “views of God” (authoritarian, critical, distant, benevolent) do you most tend to project onto Him?
- The sermon said a “praying life begins when we understand the depths of our adoption.” What keeps you from living out of that identity?
- In what areas of your life do you still operate out of spiritual orphan thinking: feeling like you must fend for yourself or earn love?

- Where do you sense God inviting you to trust His provision rather than your performance or self-sufficiency?
- When you come to God with your needs, do you approach Him as a generous Father or as a reluctant master? What would change if you really believed He delights in you?
- The sermon reminded us that prayer is plural: “Our Father.” Who are the people you naturally turn to (or avoid) when you need prayer support?
- How might seeing prayer as a “family language” reshape your experience of community in the church?
- What would it look like, practically and emotionally, to approach God not as a distant deity but as a Father who loves you, secures you, and includes you?
- **How is the Spirit inviting you personally to respond and what will you do differently this week?**

PRAY

- Pray about one way God spoke to you tonight through His Word.
- Pray by name for someone in your life who doesn’t yet know Jesus.
- Pray for the needs of those in the group.
- Pray for this ministry area of Redeemer: **SOUTH ASIA PARTNERSHIP** | Pray for Pastor Subash and his team’s church planting efforts in a region where 1.4 billion people don’t know Jesus.

5 GROUP DISCUSSION RULES

We want to be full of grace as we meet, deepening our relationship with one another and with Christ. These five values help us know our **P.L.A.C.E.** in our GC’s and Huddles.

1. **Pray** - Prayer is a space for confession, struggle, and praise. Keep requests focused on yourself and your immediate family, so we can pray specifically and personally.
2. **Listen** - Be present and attentive. Share with humility, be mindful of time, and remember: silence is okay.
3. **Apply** - Answer honestly. Consider how God’s Word speaks into your life, and what it might look like to respond.
4. **Confess** - Confession and repentance are signs of maturity. We meet one another with grace, not shame.
5. **Encourage** - Practical advice is helpful, but truth is better. Speak the gospel into each other’s hearts and stories.

COMMENTARY EXCERPT:

11:1–13 How to pray (see Mt. 6:9–13; 7:7–11). Christian prayer goes back to the example and command of Jesus himself. The Lord’s Prayer appears here in a different, shorter form from the more familiar one found in Matthew. It is generally thought that the early church adapted Jesus’ words in different ways to meet its needs. Luke’s form contains an address and two sets of petitions.

Father translates the Aramaic Abba used by Jesus (cf. 10:21; Mk. 14:36). Here, therefore, Jesus invited his followers to use the same intimate term to address God which he himself used.

Hallowed be your name is the first of two petitions concerned with God himself. May his name, i.e. his person, be honoured in the world at large. Such hallowing forms the basis for the second petition: Your kingdom come. May God’s rule in peace and righteousness swiftly come into effect. This is a prayer for God to act by hastening the coming of the day of the Lord. Only after these petitions are the needs of the petitioner mentioned.

First, there is a prayer for the supply of daily bread. This may be a petition not just for ordinary food but also for the bread of life, the gift of God without which we cannot live. Daily (Gk. *epiousios*) is a word of uncertain meaning: ‘for tomorrow’ or ‘necessary’ are possible renderings. The former brings out the way in which the prayer asks for a foretaste of the blessings of the kingdom now.

Secondly, there is a prayer for daily forgiveness, which is granted only to those who forgive others.

Finally, the petitioner asks to be preserved from tribulation and testing which would weaken faith and lead to exclusion from God’s kingdom.

Marshall, I. H. (1994). Luke. In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., p. 999). Inter-Varsity Press.