



Typically when we pray we ask God for what we want. But when Jesus teaches on prayer, he makes it about what God wants. Prayer isn't for the promotion of our kingdom; it is for the advancement of the kingdom of God. In this series we will consider how to ask God for the desires of His heart. It's all about praying for reign!

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** Praying does not come naturally; it is a learned discipline. Learning how to pray is the most significant teaching the disciples ever asked Jesus to give (see **Luke 11:1**). Who has helped shape your prayer life and what are some positive things you've learned from them?

**2 LEARNING TO PRAY is learning over.** Before Jesus taught how to pray, he taught how not to pray. **Read Matthew 6:5-8.** What are some bad prayer habits you've developed through the years? What steps have you been taking to "unlearn" some of them?

**3 Read Matthew 6:9-13 together as a group.** What part of this prayer most encourages you and what part most convicts you? Why?

**4 JESUS IS TEACHING... "Our God is a really good Father."** The first thing Jesus teaches about prayer is really radical as he refers to God as "Our Father". What is so radical about this truth and why does Jesus invite us to pray like this?

**5 JESUS IS TEACHING... "With God all things are possible."** Jesus also reminds us that because our Father is "in heaven" He is not bound

by any earthly limitations. **Read Ephesians 3:20.** With that in mind, how does prayer bring the reality of heaven to bear on the realities of earth? How should that change the way you pray?

**6 JESUS IS TEACHING... "To God be the glory."** The hardest thing to unlearn about prayer is that it is not ultimately for our sake but for God's. **Read Ephesians 3:21.** Too often we've learned to pray for problems to be solved and our hassles to be removed. What if instead we started praying for God to honor His name however He chooses through our problems and hassles? How would that change how you live and pray?

**7 PRAYER IS LEARNING that our reign is over.** Memorizing the Lord's Prayer is not hard; recognizing what the Lord's prayer is asking us to admit is. We often use prayer as a way to bring order to our kingdoms. Jesus is teaching us to pray for God's kingdom to come, which is another way of teaching us that our kingdoms must go. Why do we tend to focus more on "my will" than "thy will" when we pray? How would it change the way we pray if our focus was less on our needs and more on what was best for God's name?