



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 Begin your group time by saying the Lord's Prayer together (**Matthew 6:9-13**). What was this past week like as you prayed this prayer daily? What impact did it have on your life?

2 PRAYER WANTS what God wants. Too often prayer becomes a way of trying to bend the will of God. But Jesus says prayer is a way of trying to find the will of God. **Read Matthew 6:10.** In what ways does our culture try to influence us to pursue our will more than God's? What is one action you could take today (in your family, workplace or community) to be part of God's plan to bring His kingdom to this earth?

3 "YOUR KINGDOM COME..." is an admission of surrender. Implied in the prayer Jesus is teaching is that there is more than one kingdom wanting our allegiance. **Read Mark 1:14-15.** Rick pointed out that "Repent" was not a rebuke but an invitation. With that in mind, what is the significance of Jesus beginning his ministry by inviting people to repent? Is there anything in your life that you haven't totally surrendered to God (Relationships? Finances? Work/School? Recreation?)? Invite God to have control in every area of your life.

4 "YOUR KINGDOM COME..." is a declaration of war. Disciples will always pray with a certain holy discontent because things on earth are not

the way they are supposed to be, and they won't be until heaven and earth are united. So prayer is an act of rebellion against the way things are. How does Satan try to prevent the presence of God's kingdom in the world today? How does he do it in your own corner of the world?

5 "YOUR KINGDOM COME..." is an expectation of victory. *"Your kingdom come"* is not just a request; it's a prophecy. One day God's will really will be done all over the earth. **Read Revelation 17:14.** How should this truth impact the way you pray today? What are some ways God is using His people to give the world glimpses of the coming kingdom?

6 God wants us to want His reign. As we noted earlier, we often use prayer to convince God to want what we want. Prayer is meant to help us want what God wants. How have you experienced this in your prayer life through the years?

7 Dallas Willard says that *"the greatest threat to the kingdom of God will always be my kingdom."* In what ways has that been true in your life? How can the example of Jesus (**see Matthew 26:39**) transform the way you pray and how you live? Pray this prayer as you close and as you reflect on what your NEXT STEP is today: **"Lord, help me want to want what you want."**

