



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 did you find most challenging or encouraging about praying "Your kingdom come" this past week? As you think about the topic for this week, what comes to mind with the phrase, "Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors"?

2 The Lord's Prayer is given in the context of a larger sermon where Jesus teaches his followers that discipleship informs all of life (**Matthew 5-7**). There is no part of our day that is to be lived outside of the reign of God. Our aim is to bring every challenge into submission to Jesus. And that is a challenge every single day (**Read Matthew 6:34**). In what ways is it often a difficult to bring every part of your day into submission to Jesus?

3 THROUGH PRAYER... we get through each day. Prayer brings serenity; lack of prayer brings anxiety. **Proverbs 12:25** reminds us that "Worry weighs a person down." How have you experienced that to be true in your life? Follow up conversation: There is a better way to get through the day. **Read 1 Peter 5:7**. Recall a time when you practiced "casting your anxieties" on God. How did that change your perspective and circumstances?

4 WE ARE THROUGH... with worrying. As Jesus is teaching us to pray for reign, we are learning to

pray with faith that God will provide all we need to obey His kingdom will. **Read Matthew 6:25-34**. What are some of the ways God has provided for you recently? How should remembering that impact how you live your life today?

5 WE ARE THROUGH... with regretting. The next line in the prayer says, "And forgive us our debts..." (**Matthew 6:12a**). How does this prayer help us deal with our guilt and regrets (**see Romans 8:1**)? Why is it important for God's forgiveness to reign in our hearts?

6 WE ARE THROUGH... with resenting. The prayer continues, "...as we also have forgiven our debtors" (**Matthew 6:12b**). We've all done wrong and been done wrong to by others. **Read Matthew 5:23-24 and 6:14-15**. What is the significance of what Jesus is teaching here about forgiveness and resentment? How does prayer help equip us for the difficult daily challenge of extending mercy to others?

7 "Reign through me before the storm comes to me." Prayer asks for God's reign to come through us before the challenges of each day come to us. For the kingdom to come you must let go. What do you need to let go of — worry, regret, resentment? Spend some time as a group listening to each other and then in prayer for each other.

