



LUKE 11:1-13

TEACH US TO PRAY

MESSAGE BY PASTOR NATHAN WEAVER

Teach Us to Pray - July 2022

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation."

Our scripture reading today contains the most popular prayer in all of history. This prayer is prayed daily by millions. The purpose of the Lord's prayer was to "teach us to pray." It provides a helpful framework to learning how to pray and contains a depth that is often lost when the prayer becomes rote. The challenge of today's message is to revisit the Lord's Prayer in a way that reminds us that it is meant to be far more than a mechanical repetition, but contains deep petitions to God for many of life's circumstances.

Our Father

The prayer opens with a description of who God is and who we are. God is a loving Father, and we are his children. In first-century Jewish Palestine, children were powerless social dependents and fathers were viewed as strong providers and examples on whom their children could depend. This stands in stark contrast to many dysfunctional families today. Sadly, there are children who grow up without strong parental examples. 30% of children in the US grow up without a father. An even larger

number grow up with one or both parents are either abusive, absent, or emotionally disconnected.

The broken realities of our world make us hesitant to view God as Father, yet we believe that the Father sent Jesus to be a healer of these broken perceptions. Where our earthly fathers may have let us down, God is the perfect Father who loves us perfectly.

Hallowed be Thy Name

This is the first petition in the prayer, and is asking that God's name will be kept holy. God's name is made holy when we trust and follow God's word.

Thy Kingdom Come

The second petition is for the world to become like God's heavenly kingdom. The evil we observe each day is far from aligning with God's will. This is a prayer for the transformation of the brokenness we see around us.

Questions:

- What does it mean to you that God is our Father?
- How do we honor God's holy name?
- What are areas of brokenness in the world that you would like to see transformed?
- How can this outline for prayer impact your prayer life?

