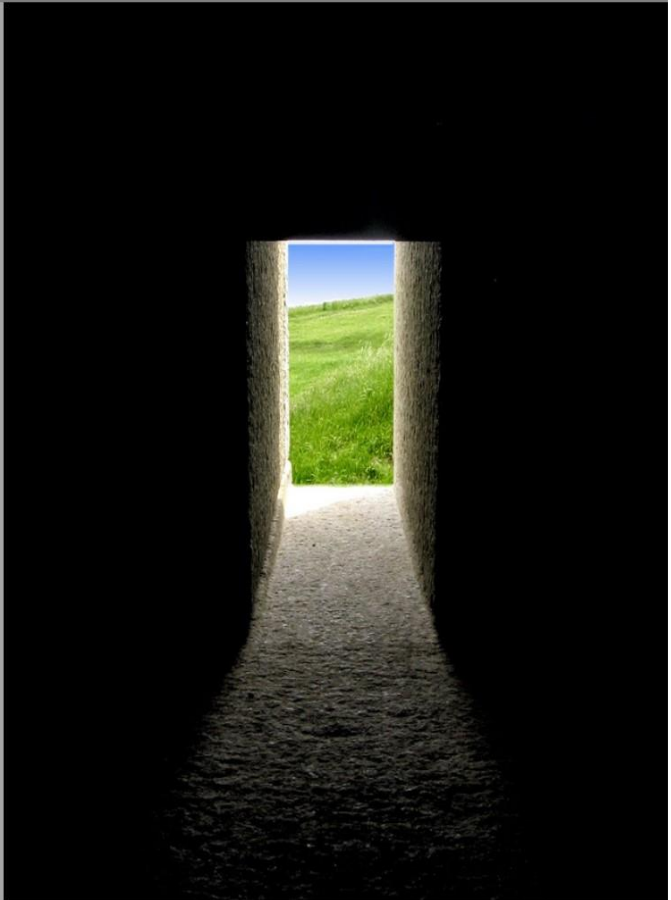


AWAKENING

A Walk Through The Lord's Prayer


CHRIST PACIFIC
Church



Introduction

Welcome to the Awakening study. This study guide follows along with our sermon series with the same title. It is our prayer that God will use both the sermon series and the study to awaken us. We hope that our prayers would awaken our senses to what our heavenly Father is up to in our world, and awaken our passion to participate in that work. In other words, “Awakening” is about changing our prayer lives *and* our prayers changing us.

We will be using the Know-Grow-Go framework for this study. Disciples are those who **know** Jesus as Lord and Savior, who **grow** together to become like Him, and who **go** on mission with Jesus. Keep this framework in mind as you go through each week’s questions.

Make Yourself Real! (Matthew 6:9-13)

This week's passage marks the beginning of a new series. The focus is on the phrases, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name." With these words, Jesus prayed that God the Father would *make Himself real*. While God made Himself known in the Old Testament, Jesus makes God's nature and character fully known. So, this part of the prayer is about knowing God the Father *through Jesus*.

KNOW



In the Gospels, Jesus claims to know the Father in a unique way. Read Matthew 11:25-30. What does Jesus say here about His unique relationship with God the Father (11:25-27)? To whom does Jesus "reveal" God the Father so that they might "know" Him (11:28-30)?

According to Matthew 6:9, we are to pray that God's "name" would be "hallowed" or "made holy." In the Scriptures, one's "name" represents one's person. To make God's name holy means to ask God to make his name manifest, known, real. What exactly are we asking God to do?

GROW



According to Hebrews 1:3, Jesus is “the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.” As you follow Jesus, how do you desire to know more of God’s character and nature? In what ways would you like to reflect God’s character in your own life? What do you need to give up for this pursuit?

GO



Many people in our culture are unsure if there is a God. What attributes and characteristics of God are most meaningful to you? How prepared are you to share these things? Ask God to give you opportunities to reflect God’s goodness to others and to share God’s good news with them.

Rule without Rival! (Matthew 6:9-13)

This week's study unpacks the words, "Your Kingdom come...on earth as it is in heaven." The focus here is on the coming of God's reign in and through Jesus. God's Kingdom (God's ruling activity) is *already but not yet here*. Through Jesus, God's reign of grace is present experience and a future expectation. This dynamic is to inform and shape our prayer lives.

KNOW



In Mark 1:14-15, Jesus gives us some direction as to the meaning of "the Kingdom of God." Read these verses. What does Jesus claim about God's reign? What response does Jesus call for?

By the end of Matthew's Gospel, the risen Jesus declares that He has been enthroned as the King of the world. Read Matthew 28:16-20. How is this image different from how many in the world see Jesus? How might viewing Jesus as the King of God's kingdom change your prayer life?

GROW



When God's Kingdom comes in and through Jesus' disciples, it involves a revolution in one's heart and life. What might this kind of revolution look like in your life, relationships, community, and church? What areas in your life are you afraid or simply reticent to pray such a prayer?

GO



God's Kingdom comes in and through Jesus' followers. Pray the following prayers for you and Christ Pacific:

Pray for the Kingdom to come *in you*.

Pray for the Kingdom to come *through you*.

Pray for the Kingdom to come *in and through Christ Pacific*.

Fulfill All Your Good Pleasures! (Matthew 6:9-13)

“Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” These are the words from the Lord’s Prayer for this week’s study. According to Jesus, God’s “Kingdom” comes when God’s “will” is “done” (Matt. 6:10). The word for “will” here has the sense of one’s “heart’s desire” or “good pleasure.” Jesus’ disciples are to pray that God would *fulfill all of God’s good pleasures!*



KNOW

Jesus made known God the Father’s heart’s desires. Read Matthew 5:1-12, where Jesus speaks of who is “blessed” or “happy” in God’s Kingdom. What do these verses reveal about what God desires within His Kingdom? What can we learn here about God’s character and heart?

Doing God’s will was a topic that Jesus spoke of many times in the Gospels. Read Jesus’ parable of the “two sons” in Matthew 21:28-32. What does it mean to do “the will” of God? How might this insight help you to better understand the Kingdom of God?

GROW



One reason why we pray that God's will to be done is because we are not in touch with our deepest wants and needs. To what degree do you believe God knows what our hearts truly long for and what we truly need? Do you really believe that? Why or why not?

GO



This petition is not "Let us do your good pleasures on earth as it is in heaven," but rather, "Father, you do your good pleasures." What is the difference? Why is that difference important? Ask God to show you ways in which you can humbly engage with others for their good and God's glory.

Be Our Provider! (Matthew 6:9-13)

In this week's part of the prayer, we are focusing on God the Father as our Provider. Jesus prayed, "Our Father in heaven...give us our daily bread." This prayer for daily provision includes food but goes beyond that. Jesus' disciples seek and trust God to provide all that they need to fulfill God's calling on their lives.

KNOW



Praying "give us our daily bread" is an act of faith in God the Father. Jesus taught about trusting in God's provision in Matthew 6:25-34. Read these verses. What is the source of anxiety? Why is it often so difficult to trust God? What is Jesus' suggested "cure" for this anxiety?

The Apostle Paul knew what it meant to pray and live out this petition. Read Philippians 4:9-13. What had Paul learned about "contentment"? How are Paul's words similar to Jesus' teachings in Matthew 6? What can we learn about faith in God as our Provider?

GROW



The Lord's Prayer is designed to change not only our prayers but also our lives. What would happen to you if you authentically prayed this petition of the Lord's Prayer every morning and every evening? How could this increase your trust in God as your Provider?

GO



Your radical generosity to others may be the answer to their prayers. Consider how Jesus may be calling you to be generous toward others around you. In what ways might you provide for others' needs in your friendships, family, or community?

Cancel Our Debts! (Matthew 6:9-13)

In this week's study, we focus on the petition, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Although Jesus never sinned and does not need forgiveness, He is our model for forgiving *others*. In God's Kingdom, those who are forgiven are expected to forgive those who have sinned against them.

KNOW



The second half of the Lord's Prayer moves from global concerns to personal ones. In what ways is the matter of forgiveness intensely personal? How does it also affect families, societies, and even whole nations?

Some have observed that this is perhaps the boldest thing we can ask God to do. Why do you think people have concluded this? Read Matthew 18:21-35. What importance does Jesus giving to forgiving others in this parable?

GROW



Lewis Smedes says, “To forgive is to a prisoner free, and discover that the prisoner is you.” In what ways does *not* forgiving someone actually imprison you? Are you holding on to any grudges or bitterness? How could you experience healing if you forgave?

GO



Pray as a group in three stages. In the first stage, offer a time for participants to ask for forgiveness for the debts they owe to fellow humans. In the second stage, offer a time to ask for forgiveness for debts they owe to themselves. Finally, offer a time to ask for forgiveness for debts they owe to God.

Rescue Us! (Matthew 6:9-13)

The final petition, “lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one,” is the focal point of this week’s study. As God’s Kingdom comes through Jesus, we can be confident that Jesus is victorious over Satan. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, God has defeated sin, death, and Satan. Jesus has instructed us to pray for God to deliver us from the tempting and troubling of Satan, “the evil one.”

KNOW



This petition is better understood as “deliver us from the evil” instead of merely “evil.” How does this personalization of evil inform your understanding of evil? What difference does it make to ask for protection against “the evil one”?

It is important to keep in mind that, while God may allow a trial to come our way, He will never tempt us. Read James 1:12-18. What does James say here about being “tempted” (1:12-15) and God’s goodness (1:16-18)? What does this passage teach about the faithfulness of God?

GROW



Satan is hurling temptations at us all the time. How do you understand the interactions between our own responsibility when facing temptations and trusting in God's strength during these times? What is God's role? What is our role?

GO



One of the ways that God protects us from temptation is through the encouragement of other disciples. How can you encourage those you know well to be faithful to Jesus? How can you lean more on their support during times of testing and temptation?



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