




# COMMUNITY GUIDE

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## WEEKLY APPLICATION

**TAKEAWAY:** Prayer is often kept in the peripheral of our lives, but Jesus teaches us to make it central.

**HEAD CHANGE:** To whom we pray is more important than how we pray.

**HEART CHANGE:** Jesus' teaching on prayer (The Lord's Prayer) addresses our anxieties and misconceptions.

**LIFE CHANGE:** Our prayers make a difference in partnering with God's will.

## OVERVIEW

In this powerful exploration of prayer, we're reminded that our vision of God shapes our practice of prayer. The Lord's Prayer, found in Matthew 6 and Luke 11, serves as a blueprint for calming our anxieties about approaching the Divine. Jesus introduces us to God as 'Father,' revolutionizing our understanding of our relationship with the Creator.

This intimate address invites us into a deeper, more personal connection with God. We're challenged to reconsider our approach to prayer, moving it from the periphery of our faith to its central core. The message emphasizes that to whom we pray matters more than how we pray, encouraging us to cultivate a rich, vibrant prayer life rooted in understanding God's true nature as our loving Father.

*"Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."*

*Matthew 6:9-13*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What has been your experience with prayer? Do you find it easy, challenging, or somewhere in between?
2. How does understanding God as "Father" change your approach to prayer? Does this concept feel natural or challenging to you?
3. The sermon emphasized that "our prayers make a difference." How does this idea impact your view of prayer? Does it motivate you to pray more?
4. The pastor mentioned that "the more I trust God, the shorter my prayers are." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

Close your time by praying the Lord's Prayer and reflect on each phrase as you pray.

**IN THIS TOGETHER!**