

## Sermon Series: *The Lord's Prayer*

Over the next few months we are going to be studying The Lord's Prayer from the gospel of Luke. It is our hope that this series will bring us a greater freedom as we learn that prayer is simply talking to God; a simple conversation. Jesus begins teaching us how to pray by instructing us to call God "Father". What an incredible invitation! God desires to know us as his children, and for us to know him as our father. He opens his heart wide to us and asks us to open our hearts to him. He is interested in how we think, live, and feel. He hears the voices of His sons and daughters no matter what.

There may be times in our lives when our prayers feel more like something we need to produce. Some of us believe that if we produce the right language, feelings or attitude, then God, who is out there somewhere, might hear us and be kind to us. Or it may be that we see prayer more like a lucky rabbit's foot. If we repeat ourselves often enough, or get enough people praying about the same thing then maybe we can stave off bad luck and get the goodies. Perhaps, also, we are inclined to experience guilt. We muster up the effort to pray only to realize that we don't really pray that much and then sink into a set of self-imposed guilt feelings. How can this be considered life giving?

Jesus' teaching on prayer is a mirror of the gospel of God's grace which offers us real rescue from this futile and frustrating process. Jesus' invitation is that we start talking with a father who loves us dearly in all of our incompleteness. Prayer is for the unspiritual who need the Spirit. It is earthy conversation where your life and your God meet together. It is our prayer that this series would breathe life and encouragement into our lives over the next few months.

If you would like to do some outside reading we can recommend the following resources which are all available on Amazon:

["Prayer", by Ole Hallesby.](#) This small book thoroughly addresses our need as the starting point for prayer. It is very devotional in nature and packed with heart-felt gospel theology.

["A Praying Life – Connecting with God in a Distracting World", by Paul Miller.](#) This is an excellent book. It is very down to earth and practical. It addresses the reality of our stumbling prayers and addresses many of the problems we have in approaching God.

["Prayer and the Knowledge of God", by Graeme Goldsworthy.](#) This is an excellent resource from a premier biblical theologian. It is subtitled, *what the whole Bible teaches*. If you want to learn a bit about the discipline of biblical theology and a lot about prayer this is an excellent resource.