

# the Journey of Discipleship

## Lesson 5: Kingdom Prayer

### INTRODUCTION:

Prayer is another exciting way we can connect with God and build a close relationship with Him. In this study, we will be looking at what prayer is, what motivates us to pray, why some prayers are not answered, and a model to help us get started in prayer. Let us begin with a couple questions.

1. *What has been your experience in praying to God? Has it been encouraging, challenging, frustrating, etc.?*
  
2. *Has there been a time when you knew God answered your prayer? How did that make you feel?*

### READ MATTHEW 6:5-8

<sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup>And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

3. *What are some of the ways Jesus says we should not pray?*
  
  4. *How does Jesus describe the way we should pray?*
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5. *Why do you think the Father rewards those who pray in secret? What does this teach us about prayer?*

**GOING DEEPER:**

Prayer is a gift from God so that we might grow in intimacy with Him. It is really amazing that the God of the universe wants to spend time with us and enjoys talking with us. In Lesson 4 we learned that God speaks to us through the Bible and in Lesson 3 we also learned that God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit. Now in this lesson we are learning that we get to speak back to God through prayer. Everything God has designed is for us to have a close relationship with Him! One of the keys that leads us to want to pray is to really understand God as our Father. The more we see Him as a Father that loves us, enjoys being with us, and wants to meet our needs, the more we will want to pray

**READ MATTHEW 7:7-11**

<sup>7</sup>“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>9</sup>“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup>If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

6. *What promises does God make in this passage regarding prayer?*
7. *What basis does Jesus use to say that our prayers will be answered?*
8. *How do you think seeing God as a good Father would increase your prayer life?*

The more we see God as a good Father, the more we will want to spend time with Him. This can be challenging though, if we did not have a good earthly father. Sometimes we will picture God like our earthly father. If he was harsh or angry we tend to then see God in the same way. The way we change our view of God even if we had a good father is through Scripture. The more we see His goodness the more we can believe in Him as He really is. This can take some time, but as you continue to see the God of the Bible, you will see a Father who is delighted to be with you!

### What is happening when my prayers are not being answered?

As you journey together with Jesus you are going to experience some times when it seems like God is not answering your prayers. It is important to know that there can be several reasons for this.

1. It might not be the right timing for God to answer that prayer.
2. It might be that what you are praying is not in line with God's will. If this is the case, as you pray, ask God to change your heart to align with His will.
3. You might be encountering spiritual warfare. Sometimes Satan is resisting what we are praying for, especially when we are praying for others to believe in Jesus. If this is the case, we need to continue to persevere in praying, knowing that God will ultimately win this battle.

Regardless of whether we see God answering our prayer or not, we know that His character and love never changes. He is a good Father and loves to bless His children. If prayers are not being answered, it is most certainly not that God's love for you is any less. It is impossible for God to change. Therefore He is always a good Father that loves you and wants what is best for you!

## LIVING IT OUT

Now let's look at the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray.

### READ MATTHEW 6:9-15

<sup>9</sup>“This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup>your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.’

<sup>14</sup>For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

9. *What sticks out to you the most about this prayer that Jesus taught?*

It was common in the time of Jesus for teachers to give their students topics when it came to prayer. As we look at this prayer, it can be divided into 5 different topics. Each topic will give us something unique to pray about. You don't need to do every topic each time you pray, but it is helpful to guide you into a complete prayer life. Here are the topics that Jesus gave his disciples to pray:

1. **Begin by praising God.** "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name." Picture a loving Father who is waiting to spend time with you. Then begin to praise Him for who He is and what He has done.
2. **Ask for God's kingdom to come.** "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Ask that Jesus would reign in your heart as King. Ask Him to also come work in the hearts of people who don't know Him yet. Ask for His kingdom to break in to any areas of need, like healing, freedom, or provision for others. Also, ask that your eyes would be open to see Him working around you each day.
3. **Ask for your current needs.** "Give us today our daily bread." Ask that God would meet all of your needs for that day. This could be strength, encouragement, wisdom, finances, etc. Whatever need you have, your Father wants to meet it!
4. **Confess your sins.** Ask for God to forgive your sins that you are aware of. Also, ask the Holy Spirit to show you sins that you might not be aware of. God wants to cleanse you and fill you with His Spirit as you do this.
5. **Ask for spiritual protection.** Satan is always attacking us and so we want to pray that God would protect us and focus our minds on Him. Ask that when temptation comes you would have power to resist it.

## MOVING FORWARD

10. *Set certain times this week that you can be alone with the Father to pray. Try to find a place that you won't be distracted. Also, set an amount of time that is not too long for you to start with.*
11. *Write down what you learned from these times of prayer. Did you enjoy it or did you find it hard to do? Remember that relationships take time to develop, but the more time you spend the closer you will become to God.*