



“Pray For Reign”

Matthew 6 Small Group Plan

Reflect on these words by Andrew Murray as he writes about how Jesus carefully organizes The Lord’s Prayer.

While we ordinarily first bring our own needs to God in prayer, and then think of what belongs to God and His interests, the Master reverses the order. First Thy name, Thy kingdom, Thy will; then, give us, forgive us, lead us, deliver us. The lesson is of more importance than we think. In true worship the Father must be first, must be all.

— **With Christ in the School of Prayer**

Or, this challenge by Glaphre Gilliland,

Seek God first. Why do we tend to seek other things first ... and want God to be added later? We seek success and want God to endorse our goals. We seek vindication and want God to take our side. We seek health and want God to dispense an instant cure. We seek to be useful and want God to bless our busy activities. We tend to use God instead of seek Him.

— **When the Pieces Don’t Fit**

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Which quotation gives you the greatest lesson? Explain.
- What would people learn about your view of God, just from listening to your prayers?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— PERSPECTIVE —

Matthew 6:9

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name

- What does “hallowed” mean?
- Does the term “awesome” feel reverent like “hallowed” or does it feel common and frivolous? Explain.
- How has the term “awesome” become a casualty of human language?
- How can we find the balance between the intimacy of “our Father” and the reverence of His “hallowed name”?

— **SURRENDER** —

Matthew 6:10

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

- What are the major principles of the secular human kingdom?
- Why must this kingdom, our kingdom, crash as God's kingdom takes control?
- Why does the concept of "surrender" feel vulnerable and thus foolish to many?
- Why is surrender to God an act of pure wisdom instead?

— **DEPENDENCE** —

Matthew 6:11

Give us today our daily bread.

- What is the attraction of "making our own way" or "earning our own bread"?
- Even for the most independent among us, explain how is it physically impossible to be completely independent from God?
- How does receiving "bread" and all good things as gifts from "our Father in heaven" change your view of life?

— **GRACE** —

Matthew 6:12

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

- What is the connection between being forgiven and being forgiving?
- Why do some hold grudges while other easily forgive?
- READ 2 Corinthians 5:18
- How does it feel to know that forgiving and "reconciling people" is a "task" given to us by God himself?

— **DELIVERANCE** —

Matthew 6:13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

- Do you think Americans are aware and responsive to the spiritual war going on in the world? Explain.
- What are Satan's true motives and ultimate goals? What does he want for our children? What does he want for our families? What does he want for our church?
- In view of Satan's plans, how does God's deliverance feel?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Identify all the plural pronouns in Jesus' prayer.
- Why didn't Jesus begin the prayer with "**My** Father in heaven ..."?
- Why is prayer as much a community experience as it is an individual experience? For you, has it been more community or individual? Why?
- What has been your most powerful community prayer experience?
- The vision of Prestoncrest, "*Passion for God / Compassion for People*," comes from what Jesus called the first and second commandments, love God and love your neighbor. See if you can find our vision in the Lord's Prayer.
- Considering your own view of "*heaven*" or your picture of "*the heavens*," what does it mean for you to pray "*our Father in **heaven***"?
- When we pray for God's kingdom to come, how does this lead, guide, or even change our own sense of ambition?
- How is the request for "*bread*" still relevant for us today?
- Close by saying together, aloud, this ancient and powerful prayer.