

## Life Group Discussion Guide: The Lord's Prayer

**Scripture Focus:** Matthew 6:5–15

**Core Theme:** The Pattern of Prayer

While our series has been in Jeremiah, this week we look at the core pattern of communication with God that Jesus provides. This prayer serves as the ultimate template for our **Up, In, and Out** vision, teaching us how to relate to our Father, our community, and our world.

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### Ice Breakers: Getting Started

- What was the first "famous" prayer you ever learned (e.g., at mealtimes or bedtime)?
- If you could only communicate through text messages for the rest of the week, how would that change your relationships?
- What is a "win" or a celebration from your week that felt like a direct answer to a request you made?
- Do you find it easier to pray when you are alone in silence or when you are with others?

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### UP: Knowing Jesus Intimately

*Focus: Our vertical relationship with God and growing in it together.*

1. Jesus teaches us to start with "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" (v. 9). How does starting with God's holiness and fatherhood change the way you view your intimacy with Him?
2. "Your kingdom come, your will be done" (v. 10) is a prayer of surrender. What is something you're pretty sure God has asked you to do regarding your own will, yet it still needs to be done?
3. How does seeing Jesus as the one who makes it possible to call God "Father" help you grow in your relationship with Him?
4. What has your prayer life lately revealed about your view of God's character?
5. What's a small step you can take towards a more consistent "Up" connection with God this week?

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### IN: Being Known Authentically

*Focus: Intentional friendships and "doing life" together as communal beings.*

1. Jesus uses plural language: "**Our** Father," "Give **us** our daily bread," "Forgive **us** our debts." How does this challenge the idea that faith is just a "private" matter?

2. "Forgive us... as we also have forgiven our debtors" (v. 12). Being "known authentically" includes sharing our struggles with bitterness. Is there a relationship you need prayer for regarding forgiveness?
  3. Life groups are not social clubs; we participate in intentional friendships. How can we better "do life" together so that we are physically and spiritually providing "daily bread" for one another?
  4. What is something that is currently heavy on your heart that we can carry as a group in prayer?
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### **OUT: Making Jesus Known Practically**

*Focus: Consistently looking out to neighbors and friends to make the "rubber hit the road".*

1. "Your kingdom come... on earth as it is in heaven" (v. 10). How can we practically work to bring a "taste of heaven" to our specific neighborhood this week?
2. How might you get to know the needs and prayer requests of your neighbors so that you can pray for their "daily bread" specifically?
3. Assuming you had the skills, how would you explain the power of prayer to a friend who doesn't believe God is listening?
4. We are called to "make disciples of all nations". How does the way we treat our "debtors" (those who wrong us) serve as a witness to the world?