

Leader Guide

Authentic Worship: Prayer

Date: November 4

Scripture: Matthew 6: 5-15

Big Idea: The Lord's prayer is our model for prayer.

Guide Pro Tips

1. Jesus taught his disciples this prayer. Martin Luther thought it was so important he put it in the catechism along side Baptism, Holy Communion, the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed.
2. Each of the sections (called petitions) help us to know what to pray:
 - a. Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name: God, you are holy – only you are holy. We acknowledge who God is.
 - b. Your will be done on earth as in heaven: God's will should come first – we ask to do what God wants first.
 - c. Give us this day our daily bread: help us to thank you for all that we have.
 - d. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us: we need your forgiveness, we are really sorry, help us to see we hurt others just as we are hurt, and to forgive too.
 - e. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil: God is always with us, and we want to ask God to help guide and direct us in our troubles (and good times too!).
 - f. For the kingdom, the power and glory are yours, now and forever. Amen: this reminds us who God is and how God might accomplish all the things we need – through God's power and glory (which looks like Jesus on a cross, so sometimes its confusing!).

Gathering and Centering

We're going to pray the Lord's Prayer, because it's obviously the way to start today.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name.

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

Gives us today our daily bread and forgives us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power and glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Conversation Starters

- Using a slide with both “versions” of the Lord's prayer. Ask students which they learned first, which is more comfortable, etc.

- Remind students that they aren't really two different prayers. Just two different forms of English. One from Shakespeare's time, and one from today.

Introduction to the Big Idea

- Find Matthew 6: 5-15
- Watch video by Vicar Matt:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSgGo_bvCdM&list=PLZhksN6P9ce6DZ3vRyR9GCzi1PPRYH6mr&index=10
 - Hint: you can totally take notes in your Bible about what Vicar Matt is saying about this prayer.

Conversation in Small Groups

Tonight, we're going to try to get everyone into their proper small group for at least a few minutes to chat.

Use the following questions to get a conversation about prayer in general going (don't feel compelled to stick to script if something gets your small group excited or interested).

- What's hard about praying?
- Do you think God answers your prayers?
- What do you think prayer does to you?
- Why should we talk to God?
- Why do you think Anne wants you to learn silent/resting/meditating prayer?

Round up: When we come back, we'll ask one person from each group to report back about one thing you talked about in your group that is okay to share! Prep the small group for that. If someone talks about their own prayers, don't share those...

Journal Question

Praying looks like a lot of things. Sometimes it looks like a letter to God. Can you write a letter to God using some of the ideas from the Lord's Prayer we talked about today.

OR

Rewrite the Lord's Prayer in your own words.