

Home Groups - Discussion Questions

Wed 7 / Thurs 8 Feb

Our Father in Heaven Matthew 6:5-9

Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q100: What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us? A: The preface of the Lord's prayer, [which is, *Our Father which art in heaven,*] teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence,¹ as children to a father,² able and ready to help us;³ and that we should pray with and for others.⁴ (1. *Isaiah 64:9*; 2. *Luke 11:13*; 3. *Romans 8:15*; 4. *Ephesians 6:18*)

1. In prayer, Jesus teaches us that we are coming before a Father. Not Judge, not King, not Creator, not Holy One - all of those things are true and well and good, but according to Jesus, the first thing we must fix in our mind as we pray is that the God we pray to is our Father. Why is this such an encouragement to those of us who feel distant and far from God? How is this a help to us in prayer?
2. Sadly, because of sin, many people's understanding of fatherhood is defaced and devalued. What do we need to remember about our Father in heaven? What does this say to those of us who are fathers?
3. What is the danger of overemphasising the confidence we should have in prayer? Is this a real problem today? How does Jesus address this?
4. How should remembering our Father is in Heaven encourage us to pray expectantly?
5. How does Jesus underline the collective nature of prayer in the Lord's Prayer? What does this say to us about prayer meetings?
6. (If time), what has been the most striking thing to you from this evening's study?

Prayer Time

- Give thanks for Christ's teaching on prayer
- Pray for the Lord's Supper this weekend
- Pray for Senior Camp Reunion this weekend
- Pray for those suffering from poor health

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