

BOLD to SAY

LEARNING & LIVING
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Week 1

**"Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name"**

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Scripture Focus: *Matthew 6:9–13, Luke 11:1–4*

Key Themes:

- The Lord's Prayer is not just something we recite—it's a way of life.
- The opening address "Our Father" immediately makes prayer communal, not individualistic.
- Calling God "Father" is an act of trust and intimacy, while "hallowed be thy name" is an act of reverence.
- The balance of intimacy and awe sets the tone for the whole prayer.

Opening Prayer and Welcome

Focus 1: Always Disciples, Never Masters

When the disciples asked Jesus, "Teach us to pray," they admitted something vital: even those closest to Jesus needed help. The Lord's Prayer is for Christians at every stage—whether brand-new in faith or seasoned in years of prayer. None of us ever "graduates" into being a spiritual master; we remain disciples, learners at the feet of Jesus. This prayer anchors beginners, challenges the complacent, and deepens the faith of the mature. It levels the ground, reminding us that prayer is not an achievement but a gift. In praying these words, we are continually reshaped into learners of Christ.

Reflection Question 1: Where are you in your spiritual journey and prayer life? Are you just beginning, have you taken a new turn, or have you been on the road for a while? In what ways has the Lord's Prayer meant different things to you along the way?

Focus 2: Our, Not My

Christian prayer is always collective. Even in private prayer, we join the prayer of the whole Church. When we say "Our Father," we step into the communion of saints across time and space. This simple word reminds us that faith is never a solo project but always shared.

Reflection Question 2: To pray this prayer means to be in community with others. How does the communal nature of the *Our Father* change the way we pray it?

Focus 3: Father – Prayer as Relationship

Calling God "Father" is not a theological abstraction but the bold claim of relationship. Through Jesus, we come to know God as a loving parent who desires intimacy with us. Prayer begins not with words but with belonging—knowing that we are God's children.

Reflection Question 3: How does understanding "Father" as a Christocentric term, one that can be understood only through Jesus, affect the nature of praying the prayer?

Focus 4: Keeping God Weird

To “hallow” God’s name means to set it apart as holy. God is not just a bigger version of us; God is utterly other, the Creator whose holiness disrupts our assumptions. When we call God holy, we recognize that disciples too are called to be different—to live in ways that seem strange to the world but faithful to Christ.

Reflection Question 4: In what ways are disciples of Jesus called to be weird?

Focus 5: Boldness for Prayer

This prayer gives us confidence to approach God as both near and exalted: Abba who loves us, and the Holy One enthroned in heaven. Saying these words forms us into people who live with courage—grounded in trust, lifted by awe.

Reflection Question 5: How does this prayer give you boldness to pray? How has it changed your relationship with God?

Closing Prayer – Sing the Lord's Prayer

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Notes:

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