



The Time is Now
Small Group Resource
Prayer Week 1 - The Lord's Prayer

1. Read these passages together: 1 Peter 4:7-11 & Matthew 6:9-13. Is there anything that really jumps out at you?
2. Whether you're doing well with it right now or not - What's your favourite time of the day to pray? Do you find it most effective to pray in the morning before you start your day? At bedtime as a debrief with God? What works best for you?
3. What was your relationship to the Lord's Prayer like? Was it like Pastor Rob's where initially it was like having your mouth washed out with soap? Or is it something you've always connected with, resonated with? Or just something that you know was written down somewhere? Or something else entirely?
4. What are some of the most exciting things we experience in life? Think of highlight real moments in life, then think - what are the humdrum, regular parts of life that surround those experiences? I.e. getting a promotion at work is an exciting opportunity, but you're still working 9-6 every day. Try to think creatively about different areas of life: - personally, relationally, professionally, spiritually, emotionally.
5. Discuss the idea of "Hallowing" the Lord's name. What comes to mind? How do we do that practically? What are the challenges?
6. Read Genesis 1:26-27 and discuss. What does it mean to made in the image of God? What are the implications on us as believers, of being both physical and spiritual beings?
7. Interact this quote by David Guzik in the Enduring Word Commentary:
"The right kind of prayer comes to God as a Father in heaven. It rightly recognizes whom we pray to, coming with a privileged title that demonstrates a privileged relationship. It was very unusual for the Jews of that day to call God "Father" because it was considered too intimate.

It is true that God is the mighty sovereign of the universe who created, governs, and will judge all things – but He is also to us a Father.”

8. How does it feel to know that God, as a Heavenly Father already knows exactly what you need? How do you relate to him as a father?
9. Read and discuss this quote from theologian Adam Clarke:
“Prayer is not designed to inform God, but to give man a sight of his misery; to humble his heart, to excite his desire, to inflame his faith, to animate his hope, to raise his soul from earth to heaven, and to put him in mind that THERE is his Father, his country, and inheritance.”
10. Pastor Rob told the story about wanting to help his daughter with her shoes when she was little, but her refusing the help over and over, until finally realizing she needed someone to help her. Has there been an experience in your life that has made you realize that God is there ready to help you?
11. What does it mean for us to have been created to glorify God’s name, to build his kingdom and to be instrumental in seeing His will done on Earth? Is that exciting? Scary? Does it make you joyful? Talk through the practical implications as well as the emotions associated with that.
12. What would it look like for you as a group, family, or individually to start praying prayers that both seek to invite God into every circumstance in your life, as well as bring glory to God?
13. Spend some time today as a group praying. Consider using this breakdown of the Lord’s prayer to guide you today as you pray.
 1. Prayers that God’s name would be glorified.
 2. Prayers that God’s Kingdom would be built in your city/region.
 3. Prayers that God’s will would be done in your life and this world.
 4. Prayers for daily provision of your needs.
 5. Prayers for forgiveness and help forgiving others.
 6. Prayers for freedom from sin and oppression.