



Community Group Study: Pray Then Like This
Breakthrough - Part 1 | Matthew 6:9 | week of April 23

GETTING STARTED

- On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your own prayer life? What keeps you from thriving in prayer?

CONTEXT

- Read Matthew 6:5-8. According to Jesus in these passages, what are some pitfalls to avoid in prayer?

Read Matthew 6:9.

OBSERVATION

- Based on the context, is Jesus more concerned about *what* we pray (the content of our prayers) or *how* we pray (the manner of our prayers)?

MEANING

- What gives us the right to call God our Father? Why may only Christians do this?
- What is the importance of realizing our sonship to God when we pray?
- What is the importance of the fact that the God to whom we pray is in heaven? (Is that a way of describing God's location, or something else?)
- In your own words, what does it mean to hallow God's name?

- J. I. Packer says, “The vitality of prayer lies largely in the vision of God that prompts it.” How does the opening verse of the Lord’s Prayer call us to a “bigger” vision of God?

APPLICATION

- Are you more inclined to think of God as “Our Father” (intimate and personal) or “in Heaven” (transcendent and powerful)? Why?
- What response should a knowledge of God’s intimate love and affection evoke in us? How should it shape the way we pray?
- What response should a knowledge of God’s transcendent greatness evoke in us? How should it shape the way we pray?
- In what ways do you struggle to “hallow” God’s name daily, in prayer and in practice?
- How is the first verse of the Lord’s Prayer an encouragement to you to engage further/deeper in prayer?

NEXT STEPS

- Memorize/meditate upon John 1:12.
- Write a prayer praising God for his intimate love as *Our Father* **and** for his powerful transcendence as *God in heaven*.
- Make a list of ways you hope to *hallow* the name of God through prayer this week. Share your list with a spouse or group member.