

### Scripture Text

Matthew 6:5-15

### Context

Matthew 6 begins with Jesus teaching his disciple to give to the needy out of a desire to please God rather than to gain the praises of others. In a similar vein, Jesus now teaches his disciples to pray prayers that glorify God rather than to gain the recognition of others.

### Observation and Meaning

- How many times is the word “Father” used and what is the significance of the frequency by which it is used? v5-15
- What was the motivation of the hypocrites when they prayed and what should motivate us as Christians to pray? v5-6
- Who does the word “Gentiles” refer to in v7?
- Why do the Gentiles pray long and repetitive prayers and why do Christians not need to follow their example? v7
- In light of v9, how should we view our relationship with God and how should we approach him?
- What is the focus of the Lord’s Prayer? v9-13
- What is the significance of the coming Kingdom of God?
- How do the petitions in v11-13 relate to the petitions in v9-10?

### Big Idea

We are God’s children and have the privilege of praying to Him. Since God takes care of all our needs, we can focus our prayers on him rather than on ourselves. We do not need to seek the recognition of others or even work hard at gaining God’s attention. Instead, we can go before him with great confidence, knowing that he will hear our prayers. As children who desire to please our Father, we are to pray for God’s Kingdom to come and for his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

### Connecting to Bible Storyline

We were once enemies of God and separated from him. However through faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and given a relationship with God. We are now children of the living God, with the blessed privilege of being able to pray to him. Christ has also given us the Holy Spirit who helps us to pray prayers that please God.

### Sermon Outline

1. The Privilege We Have v5-16
2. The Posture of Prayer v5-8
3. The Prayer Model v9-15
  - a. The Opening Address v9a
  - b. Three God-centered Petitions v9b-10
    - i. God’s Name to be Hallowed v9b
    - ii. God’s Kingdom to Come v10a
    - iii. God’s Will to be Done v10b
  - c. Three Petition for Ourselves v11-15
    - i. God’s Provision of Our Daily Bread v11
    - ii. God’s Forgiveness and the Power to Forgive v12, 14-15
    - iii. God’s Deliverance from Evil v13

### Application

- How has Jesus’ emphasis on our familial relationship with God affected your attitude towards prayer?
- How have the negative examples of prayer challenged the way you currently pray?
- What has been the focus of your prayers and how will that change in light of studying this text?
- How has the corporate petitions of the Lord’s Prayer encouraged you to pray for the church?

## Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

### Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

### Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. “for”, “if”, “therefore”), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author’s purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?

What is the situation of the author and of the readers?

Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?

Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

### Application

Apply God’s word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good “heart” questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.