

Our Father

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-13

Series: Praying with Jesus

It's a simple statement about _____ God is.

The "our" underscores the _____ nature of our _____.

- invites us to _____ in his _____.
(Mt 11:27)
 - yoke of the mitzvot
 - invites share in his _____ with God

When you pray "Our Father," you are

_____ that your _____ are not the only _____ in the world.

- our baptism has initiated us into the _____ of the body of Christ.
- Life under God's rule is a common _____ of mutual _____.
- Praying in community does not mean there is no room for _____ prayers.
- we must learn the ways that Jesus and God our Father _____ this word for us.

Jesus revealed a loving Father who...

- _____ to have an _____ relationship with us.
- Wants to _____ with us. (Matt.7:7-8)
- Loves us _____. (John 17:23)
- _____ all our _____ (Matt. 6:8)
- _____ us. (Heb. 12:5-11)
- _____ us to do the _____ thing.

Start talking.

- How do people in the world today describe or define God? What names, images, descriptions, etc., have you seen or heard people use?

Start thinking.

- How would you define or describe prayer?
- What did you find to be an interesting or new idea?
- In the church today, what seems to be more common: individual prayer or group prayer?
- It's been said that "there is no prayer but social prayer", how might that change your prayer life? How could praying the Lord's Prayer together help bring unity among Christians?

Start sharing.

- How has the individualized focus of the modern world impacted the way we see God and our relationship with God and other Christians?
- In what ways can praying "Our Father" recalibrate our focus as Christians from self-centered to group-centered? In the New Testament, Jesus often calls God "Abba," which communicates both respect and intimacy with God the Father. In what ways can our prayer life draw someone closer to God?
- By praying to "our Father" rather than to "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," Jesus reiterates a key component of the good news he proclaims: God's kingdom is for everyone! Where have you seen God at work in the lives of Christians in other cultures and countries?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Our Father, thank you for giving me the reality of your love and the fellowship of other believers alongside me. Help me to remember that I am not alone, but that You are with me as a Good Father, but also that I have brothers and sisters in Christ with me as well.

Start Doing:

This week, take some time to journal during your prayer time and write down some of your conversation with God. When we meet next, you can share about your experience with prayer journaling and what you learned from the practice.