

The Disciples' Prayer

Matthew 6:9-15 [Page 1504]

2. As you begin this Advent season, take a few minutes to reflect on how you are coming into it. Do you feel excited and hopeful as the days unfold around you? Are you experiencing anxiety due to pressures and expectations being laid upon you? Maybe you have some deep loneliness, a physical issue, or an unresolved conflict. Through prayer, take a moment to lay your hopes and heartaches at the feet of Christ.

Prayer Concerns:***“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...”****“The purpose of prayer may not lie primarily in getting things from God, but in reminding us of our relationship to our heavenly Father.” [Haddon Robinson]****“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”***

History is _____

When we pray, “Your kingdom come,” we acknowledge God’s right to rule over all — _____

“Give us today our daily bread.”

God _____

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

God _____

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

God _____

When we pray, “deliver us from the evil one,” we recognize _____
_____, admit our _____, and trust in God’s
_____ over _____***“For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”***

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. Advent, which means “arrival,” carries a sense of longing and anticipation for what is to come. What is something that you are longing for this month? How does the birth of Christ ultimately fill our greatest longing?

Digging Deeper:

Read Matthew 6:5-15

1. The disciples were the ones who asked Jesus to teach them to pray [read Luke 11:1]. Of all the things they’d seen Jesus do [perform miracles, preach amazing sermons, etc.], why do you think they specifically asked Jesus to teach them to pray?
2. Discuss the awesome privilege we have in calling God “our Father.” What kind of Father is God? How is He infinitely better than even the best earthly father?
3. Do you agree with the statement, “The purpose of prayer may not lie primarily in getting things from God, but in reminding us of our relationship to our heavenly Father.” Why or why not?
4. Jesus taught us to pray for God’s will to be done on earth and in our lives. What will it take for God’s will to be done in your life? What personal priorities or plans does Jesus want you to submit to Him?
5. Jesus tells us to pray for God to provide “our daily bread.” What does this tell you about God’s love for every detail of our lives?
6. Why do you think Jesus adds the phrase, “*as we also have forgiven our debtors*” after “*Forgive us our debts*”? What connection is there between being forgiven and forgiving others?
7. When we pray, “*deliver us from the evil one*,” we recognize Satan’s power, admit our weakness, and trust in God’s victory over darkness. How does God help us in our temptations?

Taking it Home:

1. What aspects of the Disciples’ Prayer do you need to incorporate into your daily prayers?