

Prayer

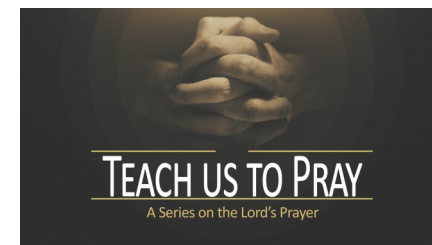
Your Life Group, and all of the others meeting this week, are the prayer meetings of our church. How cool is that!
Please spend time praying for each other and our church.

Pray for opportunities to share the hope of Christ with others.

Each other:

Church

- *Lord, help us live into our vision.*
- *Pastors, Staff and Leadership*
- *Stampede and Round Up*
- *God to provide the financial resources we need.*
- *Youth and College Ministries*
- *Life Groups meeting around the area this week*



Our Father

Bob Kennedy September 18, 2016

Getting Started

If you could ask Jesus to teach you to do one thing, what would you ask him to teach you?

What is prayer? Try and write a one-sentence definition of prayer.

Read Luke 11:1. *Why do you think that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray? Why do we need Jesus to teach us how to pray?*

Read Matthew 6:9-13.

The Lord's prayer starts with "Our Father." Jesus is inviting us to pray to God the way he prays to God—as his father! He is also inviting us to know God, as he knows God. We have the opportunity to share in the same relationship Jesus has with the Father. We are instructed to pray "Our Father" not Jesus' father. Wow! What does that mean to you? Can you think of any scripture that helps us understand this?

Jesus prayed to his Father saying "Abba," which means something like "Daddy." It is an intimate term reserved for family members only. How does understanding "Abba" help us understand how to pray "Our Father?"

"Our Father" was also associated with liberation. Our Father rescues his children. One of the first places we see God as Father is in Exodus 4:22-23. "Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." But you refused to let him go..." God then proceeds to rescue his "first born son" from Egypt. How does this help us better pray "Our Father?"

Praying "Our Father" is also saying that we want to be his child! And in wanting to be his child, we are saying that we want to be "apprenticed" to our Father. How does this help shape how we pray "Our Father?"

Some practical ideas for this week:

Spend some time this week praying "our Father in heaven." Pray it. Reflect on it. Let God make that real for you this week.