

**Following the King – study six**  
**Prayer – Matthew 6:5 - 18**

*“[Jesus taught his disciples, saying,] ‘This, then, is how you should pray:  
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And  
forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’” (Matthew 6:9 – 13 TNIV)*

Matthew 6:9 reminds us that Jesus didn’t simply teach his disciples *what* to pray, but also *how* to pray<sup>1</sup>. Through this model prayer Jesus reminds us that in our prayers we must keep putting God’s eternal plans and purposes before our temporary wants and needs (see Matt 6:31 - 33).

The fact that Jesus addresses his prayer to, ‘*Our Father in heaven*’ also *tells* us that prayer is about the relationship between God and his people. Jesus’ prayer in John 17 is also a powerful reminder of the relational nature of prayer: “*I pray also for those who will believe in me through their [the disciples] message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*” (John 17:20 – 23 TNIV)

Since Jesus was a person of prayer so should his followers be. Furthermore, Jesus has given us his own prayers as models to teach us what and how to pray. With this in mind reflect on each phrase from ‘*The Lord’s Prayer*’ and consider its meaning. Conclude this exercise by praying these words as a way of relating to God and submitting to his will. Strive to do this daily. An insightful reflection on The Lord’s Prayer can be found at: [www.biblestudy.com/?q=node/2640](http://www.biblestudy.com/?q=node/2640) (PTO → )

*Our Father in heaven,*

*hallowed be your name,*

*your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

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

Note: The Didache and some late manuscripts of Matthew’s gospel include the doxology, ‘*for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*’<sup>2</sup> Reflect also on this phrase.

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<sup>1</sup> This isn’t merely a prayer to recite. It contains Christ’s instructions about what should be the nature, focus and purpose of our prayers.

<sup>2</sup> Though often recited in churches, the earliest manuscripts of Matthew’s gospel don’t have this doxology. Neither does Luke’s gospel (Lk 11:2 – 4). This doxology is, however, found in The Didache (a first century Christian instruction document) and also some later manuscripts of Matthew. It is added as a footnote in most modern Bible translations.

### **The Real Meaning Of The Lords Prayer (AUTHOR UNKNOWN)**

I cannot say "OUR" If I live only for myself.

I cannot say "FATHER" If I do not endeavor each day to act like His child.

I cannot say "WHO ART IN HEAVEN" If I am laying up no treasure there.

I cannot say "HALLOWED BE THY NAME" If I am not striving for Holiness.

I cannot say "THY KINGDOM COME" If I am not doing all in my power to hasten that wonderful event.

I cannot say "THY WILL BE DONE" If I am disobedient to His word.

I cannot say "ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN" If Ill not serve Him here and now.

I cannot say "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD" If I am dishonest or I am seeking things just for myself.

I cannot say "FORGIVE US OUR SINS" If I harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say "LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION" If I deliberately place myself in its path.

I cannot say "DELIVER US FROM EVIL" If I do not put on the whole armor of God.

I cannot say "THINE IS THE KINGDOM" If I do not give the King the loyalty due Him from a faithful subject.

I cannot attribute to Him "THE POWER" If I fear what men may do.

I cannot ascribe to Him "THE GLORY" If I'm seeking honor only for myself, and I cannot say "FOREVER" If the horizon of my life is bounded completely by time.

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