

Bible Summary - Matthew 6:5-13

The Lord's Prayer

As a part of His sermon on the mount, Jesus teaches the multitudes how to pray through what we now commonly call "The Lord's Prayer." He tells them that prayer should be private and simple--not showy or overly wordy--bearing in mind that God our Father knows what we need even before we ask. The Lord's Prayer uses words such as "we," "our," and "us," which suggests we are meant to pray it as a community. It also covers key ideas such as calling upon God as our Father, revering His holiness, seeking His kingdom and will, leaning on Him for daily sustenance, forgiving others, and asking for deliverance from temptation and evil. In this week's message we are encouraged to consider this familiar prayer with new eyes and hearts so as not to miss "the amazing."

Scriptures: Matthew 22:38-39, I John 4:7-8, John 15:1-10

Bible Questions & Application

(These are meant to aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** listed question.)

1. How did Sunday's teaching challenge your thinking?
2. Why do you think the Lord's Prayer is written as a corporate prayer (i.e. "our" Father)?
3. "Hallowing" God's name means to honor Him as holy.
 - a. Why do you think this matters to God?
 - b. What does hallowing God's name look like in practice?
4. Dick gave an illustration of a oreo cookie: we are made to love and also to be loved, with forgiveness as the cream layer in the middle. What did that mean to you?
5. Matthew 22:38-39 calls us to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. These commandments can seem burdensome and maybe even impossible when we consider them in their entirety, but what if we were to focus on simply loving God and others *just one second at a time*?
 - a. Would this make loving any easier, and do you think it's possible?
 - b. How can we make each second count?
6. Verse 14 tells us that if we forgive those who sin against us, God will also forgive us our sins.
 - a. How can we be motivated to forgive?
 - b. Are there some people in your life you might need to forgive?
7. Dick mentioned that we often miss "the amazing" because of our ignorance, oversight, or familiarity. How can we pray the Lord's Prayer daily and keep it "amazing" instead of letting it become just a religious ritual?