

THE LORD'S PRAYER (1)

CALLED TO COMMUNITY

Message Notes

Text: Matthew 6:9-13

Jesus said, *"This...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."

*For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen*

The first two words of The Lord's Prayer, "Our Father," beautifully encapsulate the entire Christian faith: It's all about Community and relationship. He's not just "My" Father but He is "Our" Father who calls us into community and relationship – a relationship with HIM that creates relationship between

others who call Him Father. We are “Called to Community.”

In Jesus’ day there were 18 Synagogue prayers and they all had various opening words.

Most of the 18 Synagogue prayers started with, “God of Abraham, God of Isaac and God of Jacob.” Others started with “Builder of Jerusalem” or “Redeemer of Israel.” Two began with “Our Father” and that’s the one Jesus chose. Except Jesus changed the word Father from Hebrew (*Avinu*) to Aramaic (*abba*)

What Jesus did in The Lord’s Prayer was teach His people that there is no sacred language in which we are to address God...

In The Lord’s Prayer Jesus teaches us to use our everyday language when speaking to God. We don’t need to learn Hebrew prayers or Arabic prayers. You’re not excluded if you don’t know those languages. Just use the language you’re most comfortable with when chatting with your Father...

Q. What did the word *abba* mean to Jesus’ hearers?

Abba originated as a sound that babies would use as they developed speech. It was then adopted as part of the Aramaic language and is still used in at least four Middle Eastern countries today where *abba* is often the first word a young child learns...

Over time abba became a word that children would use to their fathers. It was a term of respect and also of deep, personal relationship ...

The most important truth: Right at the start of The Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us how we are to approach God. Not...

- Asking for things
- Confessing sin
- Seeking to forgive someone
- Complain about some trial or problem

Q. Have you ever tried to start prayer that way?

Q. What was the result?

And so Jesus teaches us to respectfully come to the Father in prayer calling Him dada or daddy – just like any child would come to their loving father – and enjoying a love relationship with Him and with their siblings!

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The Lord's Prayer teaches us to come to God out of relationship. Not conscious of our fears & failures, our sins & sorrows, our wants and needs, our trials and temptations. Those things can be addressed later. But FIRST, realise that Jesus has given his Father to be our Father. So, whether you're

praying on your own or with others, relax and enjoy the relationship you have because you've been adopted into God's family...

Discussion Questions

1. Right at the start of The Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us how we are to approach God. Not...

- Asking for things
- Confessing sin
- Seeking to forgive someone
- Complain about some trial or problem

Have you ever tried to start prayer that way? What was the result?

2. The greatest revelation of *abba, Father* in the Bible is probably found in Jesus' parable of the lost son. Read Luke 15:11-31 together and discuss what this story reveals about God's Father heart.

3. Discuss this statement: "We are not merely saved from something, but for something. We are not only saved from our sin but also saved for sonship." As the apostle Paul puts it in Romans 8:15, "*The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."*"

4. One of the greatest revelations in the New Testament is our adoption into the family of God. God is our Father, Jesus is our older brother, Christians are part of God's family and we are all brothers and sisters. Read and discuss the following verses that speak into this amazing truth: Romans 8:14-16, 21, 29; Galatians 3:26; 4:4-6; 1

John 3:1–2; Ephesians 1:5; 2:19; 3:14-15; Philippians 2:6-7; John 1:12; Mark 3:35; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 4:17.