

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER: Have you ever purchased anything from a telemarketer? If so, what was it? If not, why didn't you?

OVERVIEW: Prayer should be our priority. Praying together. Praying alone. We must pray, and we must pray effectively. In this sermon series we are learning to pray by studying the Lord's Prayer. In this discussion we will go deeper with the preface to the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father which art in heaven."

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Why is prayer important?
3. What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name (Jn 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24)?
4. Do you often pray the Lord's Prayer? Explain.
5. In the preface to the Lord's Prayer, we are taught to address God as Father. Read Galatians 3:26 and Galatians 4:4-5, and answer the questions.
 - a. Is God everyone's Father? Explain.
 - b. How do you become a child of God?

OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN

Matthew 6:9

The Lord's Prayer — Week 1

- c. What are the privileges of being a child of God?
 - d. If God is our Father, how should we treat Him?
6. Read Matthew 6:9 and refer to Sunday's sermon.
- a. Why did Jesus teach us to address God as "Our Father"?
 - b. Is it okay to address God as "Our Mother"? Explain.
 - c. Is it okay to address God in prayer in other ways, such as "Almighty God," "Lord," "Jesus," etc.? Explain.
 - d. What would you say to someone who has a hard time addressing God as "Father" because they had an abusive or absent father?
 - e. What is the significance of the words, "which art in heaven", and how can this phrase affect your prayer life?

The Last Word: "The knowledge of God's Father-love is the first and simplest, but also the last and highest lesson in the school of prayer." — Andrew Murray