

## The Lord's Prayer—Our Father...

### Study Questions

#### Matthew 6:9

#### Warm-up

1) Describe a time you or someone you know was trying to do something nice for someone, but it ended up being totally not what that person wanted. What went wrong?

2) [Matthew 6:9-13] This is the prayer Jesus shared with the crowds—read it through aloud, in a few different translations if you have them handy. **When do you remember first hearing (or perhaps memorizing) the Lord's Prayer?**

**In what sorts of situations have you prayed it or heard it prayed?**

**Did you just hear anything you hadn't noticed before about the prayer?**

#### A little deeper

3) [Matthew 6:9b] In the first line of the prayer, Jesus indicates that we should look to God as our Father. He is our creator (Malachi 2:10), our provider (Jeremiah 3:19), and a judge of our deeds (1 Peter 1:17), among other fatherly aspects. And the Father is in heaven—not far away, but exalted and holy because of his justice and righteousness (Isaiah 5:16). **What are some ways people “see” or relate to God (good or bad)? What experiences have led to these ways of looking at or relating to God?**

4) [Matthew 6:9c] God is holy, and we pray that we will keep His name holy. All that we do should be for the Father and His Glory.

**What are some things we do that cheapen God's name?**

**What are some things we do that keep God's name holy and bring Him glory?**

**Why do we need to pray for God's help in keeping His name holy?**

5) The first word of the prayer is *our*—*Our* Father. We're individually children of God, but we are also a family of believers: *we* in the same local church; *we* in the same region or country; *we* the church throughout the world. **How does our common recognition of God as *our* father bring Him glory?**

**What are ways this can impact our prayers, our words, or our actions?**

#### Bringing it home

6) Think for a moment about how you pray throughout your day, your week, and special occasions throughout the year. **Are there any aspects of your prayer that are not focused on bringing glory to God—maybe things that you pray out of habit, or out of more selfish motives?**

**How might you allow God to work more through your prayer?**

7) Take a moment to pray the Lord's prayer together—have one person lead the prayer, pausing for a few moments at each natural break to give everyone the opportunity to reflect on how each part of the prayer brings glory to the Father.