

# Small Groups

## SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE

Sermon on the Mount – Week 14 – *The Lord's Prayer (Part 1)* – Aaron Bjorklund  
February 11, 2023

Notes to group leaders:

- 1) You may not have time to explore all the topics in this study. Pick one or two that you want to dive into, and then go back to others if you have time.
- 2) Instead of one prayer time at the end of the study, prayer is woven through the study at various times.

### DIGGING IN:

1. When/Where did you first learn The Lord's Prayer? How have you thought about it from then to now? (A rote recitation, studied it more deeply, breezed past it without thinking about it, pray it thoughtfully, etc.)

### MAKING IT REAL:

2. Read (or recite) The Lord's Prayer together out loud.

"The Lord's Prayer teaches us the DNA of His praying." (So he wasn't saying "pray these words," but rather "pray like this"). So HOW does He want His people to pray?

👉 "Our Father" - Jesus people begin to pray and think communally rather than independently.

3. What needs to change in your thinking so that you can begin to pray communally instead of independently?
4. How might you "Let *your* concerns lead you to *corporate* prayers?" Share some concerns with the group and then turn them into corporate prayers. Pray these aloud in your group as they are shared.

👉 "Our Father" – Jesus people pray to a good a strong Father, not a distant and elusive God.

5. Write down a few qualities you wish you had in your earthly father, but didn't.
6. Pause for a minute and think about God being the perfect Father – not the father you had, but father you wanted. After a minute of quiet, share how it impacts you to think of God with all the qualities you wanted in a father.
7. Say out loud together "Our Father is strong enough to be what His children need." Say this several times as a group. Let it sink in. Then go to prayer, thanking God for being your Father and calling out His characteristics as a perfect Father.

✎ **"Hallowed be Your Name" – Jesus people are zealous for their Father's reputation.**

8. God is separate and other from us and our surroundings. Do your prayers reflect this zeal for God's name? It requires that you get to know this Father intimately. What are some ways that you can get to know the Father more intimately in the coming week?
9. Pray together for God's name to be glorified. Aaron shared the following wording as an example: "May Your name be known as good and beautiful and lovely and kind. May people see you as the good Father that I see." Use your own words to pray for God's reputation to be made known in our world.

✎ **"Your Kingdom come, Your will be done" – Jesus people pray for God's Kingdom to rise and for every other kingdom to ultimately fall."**

"God's Kingdom: The range of His effective will, where what He wants done is done." "This prayer is politically charged! Heaven's invasion of the earth." "God's Kingdom can grow no matter what earthly government is in office."

10. The WARNING: Don't replace Jesus' idea with *human* structures in government! "Our kingdoms must bow, and our wills must die, to pray this prayer." With that warning in mind, how might you pray for His Kingdom to come? What would it look like to pray for the upcoming US election with the *Kingdom* in mind rather than your personal preferences or ideas about the earthly "kingdom?"
11. "The weapon of the Kingdom is self-giving love." Respond to this statement. How is that weapon able to be deployed no matter what the earthly government?
12. Pray together for God's Kingdom to come. This might be HARD! Wrestle with what it looks like to Pray for our country and the upcoming elections without putting your own preferences and expectations on the outcomes. Then pray.

✎ **"On earth as it is in Heaven" – Jesus people pray for and seek the good of *All Creation.*"**

13. What does it mean to engage the brokenness of this world and seek to renovate it? (Both human challenges and earth challenges).
14. Pray together for the brokenness of the world.