

THY KINGDOM COME

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Individuals or groups may enjoy working through this content while having fellowship at home, while away on summer vacation, or in a Connect Group. We'll provide updated content from week to week this summer.

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

SUMMARY

This section of the Lord's Prayer invites us to pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. We're exploring the themes of God's kingdom, the importance of his will, how to pray for his will to be done, and how these realities intersect with our everyday lives. These are the necessary and essential next steps to pray once we address God as Father and ask that he would hallow his name. God's kingdom is God's reign – experienced as his redemptive presence in our lives. God's will involves both his will of decree and his will of desire. The themes of heaven and earth are about God bringing his kingdom and exercising his will in the world right here and now and as we know it.

We exist to help connect **Jesus to people, people to community, and community to God's mission**. Here are a few insights about how The Lord's Prayer connects to our mission as a church. Let's discuss this text and the process of prayer.

JESUS TO PEOPLE

Praying "Thy kingdom come" invites us to long for and seek the reign of Jesus in our lives and in the world. It calls us to share the gospel, as Jesus' rule brings redemption, healing, and transformation. We pray this theme after asking the Father to hallow his name in all the earth. Praying "kingdom come" and "will be done" are the natural ripple effects of that first request: for the Father to hallow his name. By connecting people to Jesus, we help them recognize and experience His kingdom, which ultimately fulfills their deepest needs and desires.

...PEOPLE TO COMMUNITY...

Praying for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done motivates us to participate in God's mission. It compels us to bring God's justice, mercy, and love into our communities. We remember that we are not alone. We have God as our Father and that makes us brother and sister with one another. As we embody God's kingdom values, we become agents of His redemptive work, influencing society and extending His reign on earth.

...COMMUNITY TO MISSION

Praying for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done motivates us to participate in God's mission. It compels us to bring God's justice, mercy, and love into our communities. The local church is an embassy, or an outpost, of the kingdom of God in the world. We represent the interests and affairs of the kingdom of heaven here on earth and in this world. We work as agents of this kingdom, conducting our lives to draw attention to the Lord Jesus Christ and invite people to join in his kingdom-expanding mission. As we embody God's kingdom values, we become agents of His redemptive work, influencing society and extending His reign on earth.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. What is the kingdom of God, and how is it different from earthly kingdoms? How does God's kingdom manifest in the world today?
2. How can you invite God's kingdom to reign in your life? What areas of your life need more of God's redemptive presence?
3. What does it mean to pray for God's will to be done? How do you discern God's will in your daily decisions?
4. Can you share a time when you struggled with understanding or accepting God's will? How did that experience shape your faith and trust in God?
5. How can our church better reflect the values of God's kingdom? How can we collectively seek and do God's will in our community?
6. Why is it important to wrestle with understanding God's will? How can the struggle with God's will lead to a deeper faith and reliance on Him?
7. How can we develop a heart that fully trusts and consents to God's will? What can we learn from Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane about submitting to God's will?