

WE BELIEVE

EXPLORING THE NICENE CREED

STUDY GUIDE FOUR – FROM SERMON ON FEB 8/26

The Lord's Prayer may be the most familiar prayer in the Christian faith – and one of the least examined. Jesus offers it not as a script to rush through, but as a pattern that reshapes how we relate to God, ourselves, and the world. In this prayer, Jesus invites us to address God as Father, re-orient our desires toward His kingdom, and bring our real needs honestly before Him. Each line gently retrains our hearts, teaching us not just what to pray, but who we are as those who pray. This study invites us to slow down and let the prayer form us.

LET'S GET STARTED!

When you learned the Lord's Prayer (if you did), what do you remember about the setting or context?

When life feels overwhelming, do you tend to pray more – or avoid prayer?

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

Begin your time by reading the Lord's prayer out loud. (Matt 6:9-13)

Why do you think Jesus combines intimacy (Father) with reverence (in heaven)?

How might beginning prayer with "Our Father" change the tone of our prayers – especially in seasons of fear, guilt, or doubt?

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE

What does it mean to pray for God's kingdom rather than our own? Why is it often difficult to genuinely pray, "Your will be done"?

How does Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane (**Matthew 26:36-39**) deepen our understanding of this line?

Where in your life right now might God be inviting you to trust His will over your own?

GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Read Matthew 6:11. What does this line suggest about God's care for ordinary, physical needs?

How does the story of manna in **Exodus 16** help explain the idea of "daily" bread?

What's the difference between trusting God for daily provision and trying to secure everything ourselves?

FORGIVE US...AS WE FORGIVE

Why do you think confession and forgiveness are placed at the center of this prayer? (**Matt 6:12**)

How does **Psalms 32:1-5** describe the weight of unconfessed sin?

Why does Jesus connect receiving forgiveness with extending forgiveness to others?

Where might God be inviting you to receive forgiveness, or offer it, more fully?

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE

What does **Matt 6:13** teach us about humility and dependence?

How does **James 1:13-15** help clarify God's role in temptation?

Why is it important to pray both for guidance away from temptation and deliverance from evil?

Which line of the Lord's Prayer feels most challenging for you right now? How might praying this prayer slowly and intentionally reshape your daily life?

CLOSE YOUR TIME TOGETHER BY PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER