

Women's Bible Study
The Heart's Cry: A Look at Heartfelt Prayer
The Heart's Cry to a Loving Father - Matthew 6:5-13
Questions for **February 24, 2010** by Jann Wright

Intensive Study Questions

1. Please read Matthew 6:5-13
2. What is your earliest recollection of hearing or reciting the Lord's Prayer? How was that significant in your life and how did that impact you spiritually?
3. What were some of the ways listed in this passage that the hypocrites had corrupted the practice of prayer? What are some ways that you/we corrupt the practice of prayer in our generation? How are these similar or different to the hypocrites' practices of Jesus' day?
4. What are some principles of prayer that Jesus provided in this passage? How have you/are you incorporating those practices into your prayer life? Which do you find a particular struggle? Why?
5. Read the Lord's Prayer aloud.
6. This week paraphrase the Lord's Prayer in your own words by writing it out, twice, on two different days. Keep to the general format, but use it as a model to develop your own prayer.
7. Jesus addresses God by a very intimate word for Father. What images of God as Father come to mind for you? Are these Biblical? (See Matthew 7:7-11, Luke 12:22-32, and 1 John 4:17-19)
8. Verse 10 asks "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Is there anything specific that we can do to help bring about God's kingdom on earth? Now look at Luke 22:42. What did Jesus do when faced with the choice of obeying God's will? What are some deliberate actions we can take each day to help us obey God's will?

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Discussion Questions

1. What is your earliest recollection of hearing or reciting the Lord's Prayer? How was that significant in your life and how did that impact you spiritually?

2. The Lord's Prayer is written below and the lines are lettered. Have each person in your group take one line or so and paraphrase it. Then share your group prayer from the paraphrase.
 - a) Our Father in heaven,
 - b) hallowed be your name.
 - c) Your kingdom come,
 - d) your will be done,
 - e) on earth as it is in heaven.
 - f) Give us this day our daily bread,
 - g) and forgive us our debts,
 - h) as we forgive our debtors.
 - i) And do not lead us into temptation,
 - j) but deliver us from the evil one.
 - k) For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

3. What are some ways that you/we corrupt the practice of prayer in our generation? Are these similar or different to the hypocrites' practices of Jesus' day? (See Matthew 6:5-8)

4. Jesus mentioned some general principles for prayer in this passage. (See Matthew 6:5-8) How have you/are you incorporating those practices into your prayer life? Which do you find a particular struggle? Why?

5. Jesus addresses God by a very intimate word for Father. What images of God as Father come to mind for you? Are these Biblical? (See Matthew 7:7-11, Luke 12:22-32, and 1 John 4:17-19)

6. Verse 10 asks "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." What did Jesus do when faced with the choice of obeying God's will? (Refer back to Luke 22:42) What are some deliberate actions we can take each day to help us obey God's will?