

the
**LORD'S
PRAYER**
STUDY GUIDE

Subversion and Submission: “Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done”

Matthew 6.5-15

WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements...

- Intro to New City: Saturday, January 31st 8:30am-noon
- Discuss upcoming plans/meeting dates for your Community Group

Opener Question: If you could live in any time other than the present, what time period would you choose to live in?

Intro: We're starting the year with a series on The Lord's Prayer. Perhaps no words have been repeated more in the history of the entire world. And yet the familiarity can serve to disconnect us from the meaning. For six weeks we are going to study the Lord's Prayer piece by piece.

STUDY/DISCUSSION

1. Have you been experimenting with praying the Lord's Prayer? What have you been doing? How's it been going?

Read: Matthew 6.5-15

2. A kingdom implies a King. Read Psalm 10:16, 24:10 and Revelation 19:16. What does it tell us about God when we read that he is a great King? What does it tell us about how we should relate to him?

3. On Sunday Josh said "thy kingdom come" is a **subversive** prayer. Is that true? How so?

You might read the intro from Dick Kaufmann's study on this passage: "*In light of the nature of this topic, you should be informed that this assembly could be construed as being in violation of Federal law. And although it is highly unlikely, yet it is technically possible, that your presence could implicate you in a charge of unlawful conspiracy and lead to your arrest. You see the author is involved in a subversive organization. Our organization is committed to the overthrow of the American government, as well as the governments of Brazil, China, France, Kenya and all the other governments of the world. The purpose of this study is to recruit and mobilize.*"

4. Do you think praying about the kingdom of God will make you more or less engaged with the world now? Why?
5. Discuss the following quote: "*We can only pray [thy kingdom come] if we are prepared to mean: make us Kingdom-bearers! Make us a community of healed healers; make us a retuned orchestra to play the Kingdom-music until the world takes up the song. Make us, in turn, Servants of the Lord, the few with the message for the many*" (N.T. Wright). How is God calling you be a kingdom-bearer?
6. Quoting Thomas Watson, Josh said praying "thy will be done" means two things: a.) praying we would do what he commands (*obedience*), and b.) submitting patiently to all he inflicts (*accepting whatever God brings into our life*). Which of these is more difficult for you? Why?
7. How would you counsel someone who is terrified of praying "thy will be done"?
NOTE: You may discuss how praying "Our Father" helps us pray "thy will be done." And that Jesus prayed "thy will be done" in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42).
8. What does God want you to believe or do this week in order to grow in your prayer life?

PRAYER

Take some time to pray together as a group. This series is a great chance to be a little more quick with your discussions in order to leave more time for concentrated prayer at the end. We encourage you to use the Bookmarks we handed out on Sunday to help guide your prayer time. Close your time by praying The Lord's Prayer together.