



"Prayer – Our Father"

Growth Group Questions for Week 1 in a 6-week Series

Sermon: February 15, 2026
Scripture: Matthew 6:5-9
Series: "Prayer" – Week 1 of 6

PART 1 - Reflection Questions

1. What does Jesus say is the reward for public, attention-seeking prayer?
2. According to verse 6, where does Jesus tell His followers to pray? What is the significance of that instruction?
3. In verses 7–8, what kind of praying does Jesus warn against?
4. How does verse 9 transition from instruction about prayer to a model of prayer?
5. Why do you think Jesus is so concerned about our motives in prayer?
6. What might "vain repetitions" or "empty phrases" look like today?
7. If God already knows what we need, why does He still want us to pray?

8. What does calling God "Our Father in heaven" reveal to us about our relationship to Him?

9. When are you most tempted to pray to be seen or heard by others?

10. How would you describe your private prayer life compared to your public one?

11. Do you ever find yourself praying mechanically? What contributes to that?

12. How can you guard your heart against performing spiritually for others?

13. What is one change you could make this week to deepen your time alone with God?

14. How can this group encourage one another toward more sincere and faith-filled prayer?

PART 2 - Prayer Time

Take time to pray for one another. Pray for each other's prayer lives over the next six weeks. Pray for growth in our own spiritual maturity as it relates to prayer. Pray for people who are afraid to pray that they might find the peace of Christ when they pray.

PART 3 - Ways to Pray

Each week in this section, we will introduce a new way to pray. We invite you to explore new ways to pray both as a group, a family, or as an individual. You will have opportunities to pray with others in these new ways on Sunday mornings as well as Thursday nights during Lent. For this week – we simply want to invite you to join us for our Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday February 18th at 7:00pm in our sanctuary. Here is a little bit to know about Ash Wednesday.

PART 4 - Ash Wednesday Information

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten season. Before his earthly mission began, Jesus went out into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days in preparation for what the Father had next. In the same way, we begin this season 46 days before Easter to prepare for the time when Jesus arose from the grave and claimed victory over death (Sundays are still celebrated as resurrection celebrations during the fasting period). In the in between time, we reflect on our own mortality – our own sinfulness - all the ways in which we need Jesus to come and save us from ourselves and from the corruption of the world.