



TLC Autumn 2021

Whose Kingdom, Power and Glory? *Jesus teaches us to pray*

This autumn at TLC we will be listening to Jesus as he teaches us how to pray. This isn't just one small part of being a Christian; it goes to the heart of what being a Christian is all about.

Here is the text of the Lord's Prayer as we say it in our services:

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

<p>Matthew 6:7–13</p> <p>⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this:</p> <p>“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread, ¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” [For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever. Amen]</p>	<p>Luke 11:1–4</p> <p>¹ Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² And he said to them, “When you pray, say:</p> <p>“Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread, ⁴ and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.”</p>
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Prayer is an essential part of what Jesus came to do for us: for he came so that we can know God:

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3)

For this reason those being trained in what it means to be a Christian have from very early on been taught the Lord's Prayer as one of three things which it's essential to know to be a Christian (The others are the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed).

The Kingdom, the Power and the Glory

You'll probably be familiar with these words if you've said the Lord's Prayer in church. You'll also probably find that they're not in your Bible in Matthew or Luke! They *are* in most ancient copies of Matthew, but not the oldest ones, which is why many scholars think they probably weren't in Matthew's original. However, they are from the Bible, from 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 where King David prayed them, and it is pretty likely that they have been said at the end of the Lord's Prayer from the earliest days of the church. Whether or not Jesus included them in the Lord's Prayer doesn't really matter; what does matter is that they do sum up the total revolution Jesus wants to teach us in his prayer. Whose Kingdom, Power and Glory matters? We always default to thinking it's ours... but Jesus is going to teach us otherwise.

The Prayer is structured as a series of *petitions* (things we ask God for) with a *preface* and a *doxology* (statement of praise to God), with an *Amen* at the end.

Preface:	Our Father in heaven,
Petitions:	1. Hallowed be your name.
	2. Your kingdom come.
	3. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
	4. Give us today our daily bread.
	5. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
	6. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Doxology:	For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen:	Amen.

1. Our Father in heaven

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 189. *What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us?*

A. *The preface of the Lord's prayer (contained in these words, Our Father which art in heaven) teacheth us, when we pray, to draw near to God with confidence of his fatherly goodness, and our interest therein; with reverence, and all other childlike dispositions, heavenly affections, and due apprehensions of his sovereign power, majesty, and gracious condescension: as also, to pray with and for others.*

a) Our Father

The most radical words are the first two...

Jesus and the Father

Matthew 11:27; John 5:18; John 17:5

What did people think of Jesus calling God his Father? Why do you think this was? What did Jesus say was the reason he could do this?

Who God is:

Matthew 28:19

Jesus came to do something amazing: John 17:24

So that we can do something amazing: John 14:4-6

How does Jesus do this? 1 Corinthians 12:13

When did this become possible? John 20:17

Children of God: 1 John 3:1

b) *Our Father*

Prayer is a family business!

The significance of praying together.

And 'our' means *us and Jesus*.

We have no right to have God hear our prayers.

He only does so through Jesus: Hebrews 4:14-16

Which is why we pray *in Jesus' name*.

And why we say *Amen!*

c) *Our Father*

Look at Jesus' words in Matthew 6:7-9. How is Christian prayer different to that of the 'Gentiles' (i.e. non-Christians)?

2. *Our Father in heaven*

Look at Jesus words in Matthew 6:5-6. What difference does God being in heaven make to our prayers?

Hebrews 12:28 Remembering who God is

Heaven. e.g. Isaiah 6:1-5

Our Father – in heaven. The twin poles of Christian prayer.

How does it help us to remember that believers could not call God Father before Jesus came?

What are the ways that we forget that God is our Father?

What are the ways that we forget that God is in heaven?

What are the two things about God and the gospel that Jesus wants us to remember every time we pray?

What do we lose if we don't pray 'in Jesus' name'?

What would you say:

Let's get people from all the different religions to pray together.

The thing that all religions have in common is that they all call God 'Father'. (Freud)

Tonight we're going to have a prayer rave

I can't pray about that; it's too small a thing to bother God with.

Prayer is kind of 'chatting' to God, like he's your friend.

I'm too busy to pray.

I haven't prayed for weeks.