

GROUP CONVERSATION GUIDE



“PRAY LIKE HEAVEN”



WEEK 1

WHEN YOU PRAY: OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN



Series: Pray Like Heaven

Key Passage: Matthew 6:5–9 (ESV)

Big Idea: Prayer begins with who we're talking to—our loving Father who is near and holy.

Core Truth: The power of prayer is found in intimacy, not performance.

TALK TOGETHER – ICEBREAKER

When you think of the word “father,” what’s one word that comes to mind (good, hard, or mixed)?

STUDY TOGETHER – SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION

Read **Matthew 6:5–9** out loud.

Performance vs. Presence (verses 5–8)

- ☀ What wrong ways to pray does Jesus describe here?
- ☀ How does verse 6 (go into your room, shut the door) shift the focus of prayer?

“Your Father who sees.” (verses 6, 8)

- ☀ What do these verses tell us about God’s character and attention when we pray?
- ☀ How can prayer feel different if you believe your Father *sees* and *knows* before you say a word?

“Our Father” (verse 9)

- ☀ How does praying to God as “Our Father” shape the way we think about prayer?

“In Heaven” (verse 9)

- ☀ How can remembering God is “in heaven” help lift your heart above the noise of news, social media, and daily stress?



“Hallowed be Your name” (verse 9)

- ☀ What does “hallowed” mean in simple words?
- ☀ How might beginning with worship change the way we bring our requests?

Putting it together

- ☀ How would you explain the difference between performance prayer and intimate prayer?
- ☀ If someone at Church at Viera said, “I don’t know how to start praying,” how could you walk them through Matthew 6:9 as a starting point?

As you go, keep circling back to the three main ideas:

- ☀ **Our Father** - prayer is personal and shared.
- ☀ **In Heaven** - God sees more than we do.
- ☀ **Hallowed be Your name** - prayer begins with worship.

LIVE THIS OUT

Take time each day to **spend time in adoration and listening prayer**.

- ☀ **Be still** - Sit quietly. Say, “Our Father in heaven.”
- ☀ **Adoration** - Finish this sentence in your own words: “Father, You are...”
- ☀ **Listening** - Pray: “Father, what do You want me to remember or obey today?”
- ☀ **Simple request** - End by bringing one or two needs to your Father.

WORSHIP TOGETHER

“Goodness of God” (Bethel / Jenn Johnson)

youtu.be/n3t6CdeiN1M?si=1uzUXdR7HzkBGLwR

PRAY TOGETHER

Close by leading the group through a simple, guided prayer based on the passage:

- ☀ Our Father
- ☀ In Heaven
- ☀ Hallowed be Your name
- ☀ Freedom from performance
- ☀ For our church



WEEK 2

YOUR KINGDOM COME



Series: Pray Like Heaven

Key Passage: Matthew 6:10 (ESV)

Big Idea: Praying “Your Kingdom come” means surrendering our agenda and inviting heaven’s priorities into our everyday life.

Core Truth: Prayer is not about moving God to our will; it’s about God moving us to His.

TALK TOGETHER – ICEBREAKER

When you hear the word “kingdom,” what do you think of?

STUDY TOGETHER – SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION

Read **Matthew 6:9–10** out loud.

“Your Kingdom come”

- ☀ In simple words, what is God’s Kingdom? (Where God’s rule and ways are honored.)
- ☀ What does it look like for God’s Kingdom to show up “here and now” in a family, workplace, school, or neighborhood?

God’s Kingdom vs. My Agenda

- ☀ When you pray, do you usually start with “my kingdom come” (my plans, my comfort) or “Your Kingdom come”?
- ☀ How might starting with God’s Kingdom change the way we pray for things like work, money, relationships, or health?

“Your will be done”

- ☀ How is God’s will different from just “fate” or “whatever happens”?
- ☀ Why do you think surrender to God’s will can actually bring peace in a world filled with anxiety?



Real-Life Surrender

- ☀ What is one area where it is hardest for you to say, “Your will be done” - (a relationship, a decision, a dream, your kids, your future?)
- ☀ What might it look like to loosen your grip on that area and trust God’s wisdom and timing?

“On earth as it is in heaven”

- ☀ How do you picture God’s will being done in heaven?
- ☀ If that is what heaven looks like, how could that shape the way we live and pray *today* “on earth”?

Think about it. Value it. Long for it.

- ☀ **Your Kingdom come** – longing for Jesus’ reign here and now.
- ☀ **Your will be done** – surrender that brings peace and direction.
- ☀ **On earth as in heaven** – living today with tomorrow’s hope.

LIVE THIS OUT

Pick your “Kingdom List”

- ☀ Write down 3–5 specific things:
 - One *person* (friend, neighbor, coworker, family)
 - One *place* (home, school, workplace, team, ministry)
 - One *situation* (conflict, decision, need, injustice)

Pray this each day:

- ☀ “Father, **Your Kingdom come, Your will be done...**”
- ☀ For each person/place/situation on your list, pray:
 - “Let Your reign be seen here.”
 - “Shape this to look more like heaven.”
 - “Move my heart to want what You want.”

WORSHIP TOGETHER – SONG SUGGESTION

“Build Your Kingdom Here” (Rend Collective)

youtu.be/r-4bEbk1m_c?si=0mGgi3htiGyLq6ko



PRAY TOGETHER

- ☀ Your Kingdom come
- ☀ Your will be done
- ☀ On earth as in heaven
- ☀ Specific people and places



WEEK 3

GIVE US, FORGIVE US, DELIVER US



Series: Pray Like Heaven

Key Passage: Matthew 6:11–13 (ESV)

Big Idea: Prayer shapes our dependence on God for provision, pardon, and protection.

Core Truth: We pray not as self-sufficient people but as grateful dependents.

TALK TOGETHER – ICEBREAKER

When you feel stressed, what do you tend to do first: fix it yourself, ask others for help, or turn to God?

STUDY TOGETHER – SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION

Read **Matthew 6:9–13** out loud,

“Give us this day our daily bread” – Dependence

- ☀ What do you think “daily bread” includes for us today?
- ☀ Why do you think Jesus teaches us to pray for *today’s* bread, not a year’s supply?
- ☀ Where do you notice yourself acting more “self-sufficient” than dependent on God?

Provision and Gratitude

- ☀ When was a time God clearly provided for you or your family?
- ☀ How might praying daily for “bread” grow a thankful, not entitled, heart?

“Forgive us our debts” – Receiving grace

- ☀ Why does Jesus use the word “debts” for sin here? What picture does that give you?
- ☀ How does regularly asking for forgiveness keep our hearts soft and humble?



“As we also have forgiven our debtors” – Extending grace

- ☀ How are receiving forgiveness from God and forgiving others connected?
- ☀ Without sharing details you're not ready for, is there anyone you sense God nudging you to move toward forgiveness with?

“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” – Protection

- ☀ What kind of temptations do you most face in your daily life (pressure to please, anger, lust, comparison, bitterness, comfort, control)?
- ☀ How does asking God to lead and deliver show trust in His guidance and protection?

Putting it together

- ☀ How do these three requests - give, forgive, lead/deliver - fight the lie that we can handle life on our own?
 - **Give us** - We depend on God for daily needs.
 - **Forgive us** – We live by grace and pass it on.
 - **Lead us... deliver us** – We trust God to guide and protect us.

LIVE THIS OUT – PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

This week's practice: **Confess daily, forgive daily, and depend daily.**

1. Daily Bread – Dependence

- ☀ Pray: “Father, **give us today our daily bread**”.

2. Daily Confession and Forgiveness

- ☀ Ask, “Holy Spirit, where have I sinned today in thought, word, or action?”
- ☀ Ask, “Is there anyone I'm holding a debt against?”
 - Pray, “Help me **forgive our debtors**.”

3. Daily Protection

- ☀ Ask, “Father, **lead me not into temptation, but deliver us from evil**”.”

WORSHIP TOGETHER

“Lord I Need You” (Matt Maher)

youtu.be/LuvfMDhTyMA?si=JShD05Ga1_oAYlOy



PRAY TOGETHER – GUIDED PRAYER

- ☀ Give us today our daily bread
- ☀ Forgive us our debts
- ☀ As we forgive others debts
- ☀ Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

