

THE LORD'S PRAYER – MATTHEW 6:9-13

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

In the previous session, we considered the first line of the prayer Jesus gave to his disciples when they asked him how they should pray – our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. What a wonderful God we serve! I hope you have been challenged to start your prayers with a focus on our amazing God and his incredible name, the all-powerful God who adopted us as sons and daughters, letting us come to him and call him Father. It still blows me away every time I think of it.

Our God is utterly majestic, and there is a well-placed wonder we should have for him. It is incredible that in his vastness, his bigness, his limitless power, he still draws us close to him and cares about all the things going on in our lives. We need to remember how awesome our God in heaven is, so that we can fully appreciate the awe of knowing him.

If you were a part of the previous study – have you made any changes to the way you pray after our discussion? How has that impacted your prayer life?

Today we are considering the second phrase in the Lord's Prayer, which reads:

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

How would you act if the king / president / prime minister was to walk into this room right now?

What's your response if you think of God as a king? Is it positive?

Do we show God, the King of kings, enough awe and respect when we pray? How can we balance that with knowing God and having a relationship with him?

What would God's kingdom on earth look like? How would we know when his kingdom has come, in the world and in our own lives?



What does it mean for us to pray 'your kingdom come?' How can we pray that?

If we're honest, can we say, your kingdom has already come in every area of our lives? If not, we should be praying this over ourselves as well. We can't truly pray, 'your kingdom come,' without it touching the way we live, our careers, our prayer lives, and the way we use our money. Is this true? If it is, are we truly praying it?

Read Matthew 13:44-46

What does this passage tell us about the kingdom of God?

This can be a dangerous prayer, because as we pray 'your kingdom come,' God may well be manoeuvring us into a position to help that to happen. What part can we play in bringing God's kingdom here on earth?

Along with 'your kingdom come,' Jesus also told his disciples to pray 'your will be done.' How can we know what God's will for our lives is?

Do we always live that out, day to day?

Read Luke 22:39-42

Is God's will for our lives always easy?

Can we still pray 'your will be done' when things don't seem to be going as we want them to?

What about in the wider world? Do we pray for God's will to be done through our governments? Are we willing to stand against injustice?



It's not left there, at 'your kingdom come, your will be done.' Jesus goes on to say 'on earth as it is in heaven.' What does this mean?

Does it excite you to think of God's kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven?

Can thinking of heaven make it easier for us to pray for God's kingdom to come and his will to be done?

1 Peter 5:10 tells us:

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

Doing the will of God here on earth won't necessarily be easy, but we know what's coming, we know that one day we'll get to heaven where God's perfect will is always done, and where God's kingdom rules eternally. We need to keep that perspective, to remember what God has called us to, and to live lives that follow after God and bring his kingdom and his will here to this earth.

This amazing prayer shows us that we should first consider the character of God, his name, his majesty, the fact that he calls us children, and second, we should specifically ask for his will to be done, for his kingdom to come. Not our own will, not our own desires, but his. We're two weeks into this study and we haven't even started to ask about anything for us yet! We need to remember that when we pray – it all starts with him.

