

# TEACH US TO *Pray*

Practising Prayer in Community **BIBLE STUDY WEEK**

6

## *Yours is the Kingdom*

### Begin by praying the Lord's Prayer together

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

**THEME:** Prayer welcomes God's reign over all things and releases His power & glory.

Let's take a look at the prayer cube together. It has 6 sides, each one showing part of the Lord's prayer: 1) God as Father 2) Heaven 3) Daily bread 4) Forgiveness 5) Protection and, today's theme, 6) God's Kingdom. Ask a few people in the group to share which of these themes is most important to them in their life right now. Why is this most important and how does an understanding of this part of the Lord's prayer change their way of praying or their perspective on prayer? Note that the theme of God's Kingdom theme appears twice in the Lord's prayer. Why do you think this is?

Is the Kingdom of God just another word for "heaven"? There is a hint in Jesus words at the beginning of the prayer, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." With this simple prayer, we understand that the Kingdom of God is the manifestation of heaven here on earth. This means that all of us here today, in our neighborhood here in Geneva, are citizens of a "coming kingdom". (Have each person share their earthly citizenship.) So we are all, at least, dual citizens! Heavenly citizens going to school, shopping, working, teaching, playing in the park, etc.

**What do we want Him to teach us?** To live every day, wherever we are, being fully aware that God rules over all things and to see His power and glory on the earth.

### SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER

Is it true that in general our world does not look like what God would want for us? Heaven is perfect and the world started out as a perfect paradise. When man sinned, the world became broken. The Bible describes God's plan to make all things right, through his son Jesus. (Ask a few people to say John 3:16). Everlasting life means heaven, but it also means a way of living now on the earth, which will last through all of eternity. This is how each one of us becomes a citizen of the "kingdom of God".

- ? What does the phrase "kingdom of God" refer to? Is it the same as "heaven"?
- ? How does knowing you are a citizen of God's coming kingdom make you feel?

? Does the “kingdom of God” refer to a specific time in the future?

## GOING DEEPER

**Read Mark 10:13-16.** There are two ways of thinking about God’s kingdom: the first is where God rules and reigns, like an earthly kingdom; the second is seeing His kingdom as a way of describing how things should be. Why do you think Jesus said that children might be better at welcoming his kingdom than adults? What does it mean when Jesus says “your” kingdom come, “your” will be done? Why do you think he repeats the word “your” twice and then a third time at the end when he says “for yours” is the kingdom and the power and the glory...? Why is this easier for kids?

**Read Matthew 5:1-10.** Jesus came from heaven to bring the kingdom of God on earth. The Sermon on the Mount describes how things should be when God truly reigns as king. Just as Jesus blessed the children, each of the “blessings” describe those who are welcoming Him as king: those who feel discouraged (poor in Spirit), those who need comfort, those who recognise their own weakness, those who hunger and thirst for things to be made right, etc. He ends by saying that those who are mistreated and persecuted will receive a reward, the kingdom of heaven.

## LET’S PRACTISE PRAYER TOGETHER

It is not a coincidence that the Lord’s prayer begins and ends with the kingdom of God. Sometimes we think about prayer as a list of things that we want from God. But prayer really is a way of connecting with God and his kingdom. It’s good to bring our requests to Him, He is a loving Father who knows what we need (look again at the prayer cube). He knows that we need daily food, forgiveness when we do wrong things and protection from the trials of life. But most importantly, the bigger purpose of prayer is to have a conversation and partner with Him as He establishes His Kingdom on earth. When we do this, the rest will follow (**Read Matthew 6:33**)

End your time now in prayer, allowing anyone to pray who wishes to do so. Thank God for the peace that we experience with one another. Pray that we will all grow in our understanding of our place in His kingdom, at school, at work, at church, with our family, wherever we are. Ask how you can pray for one another, then throughout the week remember that you are praying for one another, kingdom citizens living life in Geneva. Church isn’t just in a fancy building, or even in when we meet in homes, we are all the church every day as we go about our daily lives, helping to bring God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Pray that we will live out our kingdom calling!

# Weekly Prayer Journal

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