

**PRAY TO YOUR FATHER**

**MATTHEW 6:9**

**2/18/24**

**I. “PRAY THEN LIKE THIS...”**

**A. Jesus gives them a pattern for prayer...not a script**

**II. “OUR”**

**A. Prayer is a corporate event for believers**

**B. We pray to the SAME Father – Unifying**

**III. “FATHER”**

**A. God names Himself...we don’t name God**

*1 John 3:1 - “See what kind of love the **Father** has given to us, that we should be called **children** of God; and so we are...”*

**B. God is not a universal Father to all**

*Ephesians 1:4-5 - “In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as **sons** through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.”*

**C. His Name is how we relate to Him – as a Father**

**IV. “IN HEAVEN”**

**A. Our Father deals in eternal things with eternal plans**

**V. “HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME”**

**A. This is a request not a declaration**

**B. Hallowed – to make Holy**

**C. Name – God’s reputation**

**D. Request is for God to make His name Holy on the earth**

## COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Why would it be important to open prayer by recognizing who God is?
3. What are some other attributes or names of God that have enhanced your prayer life?
4. What are some ways that prayer can unify us with other believers?
5. Why is the image of God as our Father such a beautiful picture?
6. Why do you think it was so important for Jesus to specify that God was in Heaven? How should knowing this change what we ask for from Him?
7. How can we put God's holiness on display this week in our workplace, homes, etc.?
8. How often are we praying for the Gospel to work in peoples' lives? Who are some people we can be praying for together that the Gospel would be "hallowed" in their lives?

## PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

- This week we are going to pray for our **Family Advocacy Ministry**. This ministry exists to support our church members who are fostering children by providing them with **Care Communities**.
  - **Care Communities** serve the foster families in many different ways from cooking meals, babysitting, praying for the family, and more. (If you would like more info on serving in a Care Community, please contact the church office.)
- Pray that God would utilize the Care Communities to minister to Foster Families.
- Pray that God would raise up godly couples to Foster and minister to these children.
- Pray for Keystone Family Alliance and their fundraiser event we are hosting at MCC on Feb 29.