



Discussion Notes

Lead Us • Matthew 6:9–13
September 14, 2025 • Luke Knight

We are spending three weeks in the Lord's Prayer, considering its big themes for our church as we begin another September together. This week we consider: Kingdom & Will, Bread, and Forgiveness.

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

- Jesus teaches his disciples to pray is for the arrival of a *kingdom* which is not at first theirs, along with a *will* which is beyond their own. We're praying that we want God's life and will to come to fruition in our here and now.
- And, by confessing there's a heavenly kingdom and will, we're reminded of all the many earthly kingdoms and wills to which folks like us can belong. A prayer of submission to God over against any other kingdom or will, including our own.
- We're not inviting God into our little kingdoms or wills, but spiritually immigrating to his kingdom, and asking that our wills would be conformed to his good and perfect will. The Lord's Prayer insists that it's not so much that God's just joining in on *my* life, but that we're joining in with God's life.

"Give us this day our daily bread."

- This is often our favourite part of the Lord's prayer, which is only natural since we're our Father's reliant children.
- Though we're signing up for a kingdom which isn't ours, and drawn into a will above our wills, we can also expect to be cared for by our heavenly Father within that kingdom *because* of his good and perfect will. We can and should ask for bread, because it's only natural in a loving relationship to ask for what you need.
- Even though we are stepping into God's kingdom and will, submitting our finite kingdoms and crooked wills, we can trust that we'll be taken care of, not taken advantage of.

"Forgive us our debts as we forgive those indebted against us."

- This is where we come to the very heart of the Lord's prayer. Forgiveness is the central reality of this other-worldly kingdom. We are forgiven, and we are gifted the capacity and chance to forgive others. Scripture teaches that God has reconciled all creation to

himself from a deep work of forgiveness through Jesus himself, and stepping into *that* kingdom is to take up some of the implementation work for ourselves. The role of a Christian in God's kingdom is to perpetuate the reality of forgiveness and reconciliation in day-to-day life.

- So this new kingdom, this new thing God is setting up in amongst all the old things, is one in which mercy and grace run freely, and the power of love presses out the old enemy of fear. And it all comes down to Jesus, his life, his death, and his life again. That's part of what the cross means: God's service and sacrifice through Jesus has made forgiveness and reconciliation possible in our beat-up old world. Being Christian is simply accepting that for ourselves, and passing it on to others. You could say that it's simple as grace to us and grace through us.
- Of course, this can take some getting used to. In the old kingdoms in which we've been living, we've learned that nothing comes for free, payback is to be expected, and there's only so much to go around. This isn't the case in Jesus' kingdom. This is a place of abundance and selflessness, and nothing made that clearer than Jesus and his cross. Jesus took the very instrument of payback and fear, and turned it into a symbol of generosity and love. So long as we keep our eyes on it, the power of the cross runs to us through us.

Considerations:

- We always reference our Core Values each September: *Authenticity, Community, Generosity, Growing, Recognizing and Releasing*. These are words which draw out some of how we're meant to express of Jesus' kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.. That said, Living Waters might have core values, new logos, fresh ideas about how to be a church together, but all of it is set in context of a bigger kingdom. The Lord's Prayer reminds us over again to live in *Jesus' kingdom*, not our own. Which is an immense gift. Imagine if all this was down to us only. Imagine if the power for forgiveness and reconciliation depended on our efforts! But this is not our thing, it's God's thing. We're as little children joining in our father's work, trusting him to him to be fed and watching him to be led.
- With that in mind we can remember also that Living Waters is not first *our church*. This is LORD's church, of which we're a part. We don't own the kingdom or the cross any more than the next person Jesus has welcomed, and that reality should influence our life together. We're trying to express that we're a body with many parts, a family of sisters

and brothers. Jesus has set the terms for that family. So he teaches us to freely share with one another from the depths of his capacity for grace. As our value of Generosity says: we're generous because Jesus is generous.

Discussion Questions:

- What part of this section of the prayer most challenges you: kingdom & will, bread, or forgiveness?
- What are the connections between kingdom/will, bread and forgiveness?
- What are you drawn to this fall, in this part of the prayer? What is the Lord doing in your life at the moment, where you need to pay particular attention to a certain part of this prayer?
- How does this prayer inform our life together? What do you see we as a community need to prioritize and emphasize together?