



# Oakwood

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## CHURCH

## January 30 Discussion Questions

### “Our Father in Heaven”

Matthew 6:1-9

#### PREVIEW

#### Prayer Pitfalls:

1. **Performance** (v. 1,4)
  - o Pray in **Private** (v. 6)
2. **Magic** (v. 7)
  - o Understand God’s **Nature** (v. 8)
3. **Fate** (Luke 11:5)
  - o Trust your **Father** (Luke 11:9,13)

*“Prayer is not magic... nor is it resignation to a predetermined fate... Prayer is a mystery wrapped up in a relationship with our heavenly Father.” D.A. Carson, *Praying with Paul**

#### Prayer’s Beginning:

*“Our Father...”*

1. Prayer is a **Relationship** with our loving, present heavenly Father (v. 9)
  - o Prayer is possible because Jesus paid for our **Adoption** (Ephesians 2:12-13)

*“But to all who received him, to those who believed on his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12*

*“...in heaven”*

2. Prayer is a **Miracle** of God’s mysterious grace (v. 9)
3. Prayer is **Impossible** without God’s guidance and power (John 15:4-5)

### **Three Steps to Prayer:**

1. Find a **Time**
2. Find a **Place**
3. Find a **Way**

### **OPENING QUESTION**

1. When you were a kid, which parent did you go to in order to get something?
2. Thankfully we as Christians are blessed to have a Heavenly Father we can go to with our requests. Why is prayer so essential to the Christian life?

**PRAY** - Pray for God’s blessing on your conversation - to illuminate your minds, transform your hearts, and draw you closer together as a group.

### **READ THE PASSAGE — Matthew 6:1-9**

### **DISCUSSION & APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

3. Which prayer pitfall might we be tempted to succumb to in v.1? Why is this tempting? How might it slowly damage our walk with God?
4. In what areas of your life are you tempted to love the praise of man? What antidote to public applause is offered in v.6?
5. What underlying belief might we have for lifting up long-winded, eloquent prayers? How is Ecclesiastes 5:2 a helpful corrective to this?
6. Why might a big view of God’s sovereign determinism lead someone to conclude that prayer is useless? Have you ever wrestled with this? Where in Scripture do we see God inviting us into the useful power of prayer?
7. What relational word in v.9 changes our approach to prayer? How would praying to God as “Father” differ from praying to God only as our “Lord?”
8. How does your personality influence the way you pray to God? For example, do you tend to be more disciplined or spontaneous in your prayer life?
9. In what way are you convicted by the Spirit after this discussion on prayer?
10. What would most help your prayer life - finding a time, place, or a way?

11. How can we as a group be praying for you this week?

**PRAYER**

- Personal Request: Pray we would grow in prayerful dependence on “Our Father” knowing we are secure in a loving relationship with Him.
- The Lord’s Prayer for Kids: *“Lord, thank you that You are my Father in heaven. You love me even more than my parents do! Even though You are in heaven, I know You hear me and want to talk to me.”*