

## Getting Started

1. Have you ever considered the Lord's Prayer as a basic framework for prayer?
2. How do you begin your prayers?
3. When you pray "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," what does that mean to you?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain

## Digging Deeper

5. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 120

### **Q. Why did Christ command us to call God "our Father"?**

A. To awaken in us at the very beginning of our prayer what should be basic to our prayer—a childlike reverence and trust that through Christ God has become our Father, and that just as our parents do not refuse us the things of this life, even less will God our Father refuse to give us what we ask in faith.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 7:9-11; Luke 11:11-13

Do you have a sense of reverence in your prayers?

6. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 121

### **Q. Why the words "in heaven"?**

A. These words teach us not to think of God's heavenly majesty as something earthly,<sup>1</sup> and to expect everything needed for body and soul from God's almighty power.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:24-25 <sup>2</sup> Matt. 6:25-34; Rom. 8:31-32

Where do you picture God when you pray?

7. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 122

### **Q. What does the first petition mean?**

A. "Hallowed be your name" means: Help us to truly know you,<sup>1</sup> to honor, glorify, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth.<sup>2</sup>

And it means, Help us to direct all our living—what we think, say, and do—so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jer. 9:23-24; 31:33-34; Matt. 16:17; John 17:3 <sup>2</sup> Ex. 34:5-8; Ps. 145; Jer. 32:16-20; Luke 1:46-55, 68-75; Rom. 11:33-36

<sup>3</sup> Ps. 115:1; Matt. 5:16

How close do you feel to God?

## Application

8. Prayer is a deeply personal way to communicate with God. If we begin our prayers focused on ourselves as opposed to God, then we are already at a disadvantage because it will be very hard to hear from God. Begin your prayers by focusing on God and offering up adoration to him.

# Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · February 3, 2018

## Prayer

### “Off to a Good Start”

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Matthew 6:9 & 10

- How we \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_.

- God is not a \_\_\_\_\_.

- We pray for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to become fully \_\_\_\_\_.

Q&A 123

### Q. What does the second petition mean?

A. "Your kingdom come" means: Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you.<sup>1</sup>

Preserve your church and make it grow.<sup>2</sup>

Destroy the devil's work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your holy Word.<sup>3</sup>

Do this until your kingdom fully comes, when you will be all in all.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 119:5, 105; 143:10; Matt. 6:33

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 122:6-9; Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:42-47

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 16:20; 1 John 3:8

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 8:22-23; 1 Cor. 15:28; Rev. 22:17, 20

Q&A 124

### Q. What does the third petition mean?

A. "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" means:

Help us and all people to reject our own wills and to obey your will without any back talk. Your will alone is good.<sup>1</sup>

Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to,<sup>2</sup> as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 7:21; 16:24-26; Luke 22:42; Rom. 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-12

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 7:17-24; Eph. 6:5-9

<sup>3</sup> Ps. 103:20-21

Topics: Prayer, focus, God