

Into the Life of Jesus

[a prayerful pause]

Study #14

Review of last week:

This last week we looked at **Mark 8:22-9:1** together – the hinge of Mark’s gospel. As we think back to our study and Sunday’s teaching, what stands out to us – was there something that hit home for us, challenged us, encouraged us, got us thinking or praying? Explain.

This coming Sunday we will take a pause from our Mark series to hear from God’s Word in reference to God’s vision for leadership and community in the church. This week seems like a timely pause to shift gears **from study to prayer** – not just to talk about prayer, but to actually spend time praying together with the Lord’s Prayer as our guide.

Following Jesus Together in Prayer

Our text: **Matthew 6:9-13**

In this passage we are given this incredible gift of learning from Jesus to pray.

- Where do you think you learned to pray? Whose prayers have shaped your prayers – the ways you pray, the things you pray for?

Read the Lord’s Prayer-Instruction (vs.9-13) a few times together and then simply walk through the prayer – *line by line* – allowing each line to lead you into a new aspect or focus in prayer... You could do this in smaller huddles, as a whole group, or in silence with one person simply reading out the prayer prompt – whatever your group wants.

- ***“Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name”***
 - Spend some time thanking God for His fatherly love and attention. Call to mind and speak out the aspects of God’s character that are particularly meaningful to you these days. Ask God to open up to you and others more of His Name (His character).
 - Pray for God’s Name to be honored in the life of our church.
- ***“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”***
 - Think about where in the world around you or in your own life the kingdom and reign of God is not evident *and is needed* – and ask God to bring His Kingdom there. Surrender to God the places where you have sought to build your own kingdom and will. Confess your self-seeking agendas and seek God for His.
 - Pray for God’s kingdom and will to reign in and through the life of our church.

- ***“Give us this day our daily bread.”***
 - Thank God that He cares about your daily needs – and lift them to Him in faith that these are aspects of your life in which God wants to be evidently at work. Pray for the daily needs of others around you and across the globe – financial, relational, spiritual.
 - Pray for God’s provision in the life of our church.

- ***“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”***
 - Take some time to confess what stands between you and God, and ask for God’s forgiveness. Invite God to show you where you need to forgive others, and pray with God for this. Thank God for what it is like to be forgiven and simply dwell at the feet of the cross in gratitude.
 - Pray for God’s reconciling grace to be alive in the life of our church.

- ***“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”***
 - As you look ahead into the coming days or week, where do you know you might be tempted away from God’s desires and will? What trials and tests are before you? Instead of just fearing them, name these to God and ask for God to rescue from the enemies desires, and to lead you into God’s purifying grace.
 - Pray for this in the life of our church – for God’s kingdom and will to prevail over the enemies schemes.

- ***“For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”***
 - End your time of intercession with prayers of trust in God’s goodness and His redemptive plan for you, for others, for our church and for the world.