

Prayer Model Campaign

HE. WE. THEY.

Small Group Guide



DWAYNE MOORE and CLAY HALLMARK

A Note for Small Group Facilitators and Teachers

Thank you for your investment to help make disciples through leading a small group. This material has been written to work well with any size group. Our prayer is that you and your students will engage in meaningful conversation and discussion about each important topic. The ultimate goal is life-change for you and for them.

The lessons coincide and support the daily devotional readings in *HE. WE. THEY. The Life-Altering Formula of the Model Prayer*. If your students read each week in the book first *before* you meet as a small group, then the small group lessons serve to reinforce what they read in their personal devotional times. Likewise, the small group lessons work well to *introduce* each week's personal readings in *HE. WE. THEY*.

For each week of study there is a companion teaching video. These videos can be downloaded or streamed from the *HE. WE. THEY. Prayer Campaign Kit* (available at www.hewethey.com). We encourage you to watch the videos to get a better understanding of the key teachings for each week. You may also want to show them during your small group meetings each week. They vary from 12-16 minutes in length.

We pray you have an incredible experience with your small group as you go through *HE. WE. THEY*.

Blessings,

Dwayne Moore & Clay Hallmark
Authors of the *HE. WE. THEY. Prayer Campaign Small Group Guide*

Introductory Lesson: Preparations for Prayer

Note: All scriptures are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible or HCSB

SAY: Today, we are officially launching a 40-day, church-wide emphasis called “HE. WE. THEY. Prayer Model Campaign.” This church-wide study focuses on what is commonly known as the Lord’s Prayer or the Model Prayer. What each of us needs to make this church-wide study most effective both in our own personal lives and the life of our church are these things:

- A commitment to attendance each week during the church-wide emphasis
- A copy of the book, HE. WE. THEY. The Life-Altering Formula of the Model Prayer, which you will read and interact with 5 days per week over the next 5 weeks
- A concern to learn how to pray, why to prayer, what to pray, and a plan to continue praying daily when the 40-day emphasis is complete
- A conviction that a Christian should be praying for his or her church, fellow believers in their small group class, and lost and unchurched people on a daily basis.

The lesson today is designed to help us prepare ourselves for the next 40 days of focus on prayer.

>>OPTIONAL: Play HE. WE. THEY. Promotional Video by Dwayne Moore (available as a download in the HE. WE. THEY. Campaign Kit)

Let’s begin with answering this question: WHAT IS PRAYER? (Teacher: Take time at this point to write on your white board the definitions or words commonly associated with prayer as pointed out by class members. Class members may say such things as “talking to God”, “listening to God,” “making requests”, “praising God”, etc. There are probably no real wrong answers to the question at this point.)

SAY: Now that we have discussed what prayer is to us, let’s use this definition of prayer for the purposes of the next 40 days. Simply put, Prayer is openly communicating with God (both talking and listening) as a priority of our daily lives for the purpose of getting to know God better and learn to live out His purposes for our lives in practical and effective ways as a worshipper. (Repeat this definition)

Our scripture focus today is from Matthew 6:5-8. These are the verses just before Jesus started teaching His disciples the Model prayer. These verses are important because what Jesus was doing in these verses is showing the Disciples (and us) how to get ready or make preparation for praying. Let’s begin today by reading these verses:

5 “Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. I assure

you: They've got their reward! 6 But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 When you pray, don't babble like the idolaters, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words. 8 Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask Him.

Just as with many other important activities, preparation for prayer is very important. For example:

- ▶ Farmers cultivate and prepare their field before they ever plant a seed. They break up crusty, dry soil so that water and nutrients can get down to the roots where they're needed.
- ▶ Athletic teams practice and prepare to meet their opponents on the field and on the court. And even before they get on the field or the court to practice, they've been in the weight room and on the track conditioning and preparing.
- ▶ Military forces spend massive amounts of time drilling and preparing to meet the enemy. Intelligence is gathered, tactics are formulated, war games are played out, all to prepare to fight and defeat the enemy.
- ▶ We spend the formative years of childhood and adolescence preparing ourselves for the demands and responsibilities of adulthood – college or trade school preparing for jobs and careers, developing friendships and relationships, possibly one that will lead to marriage.

ASK: What are some other areas in life when preparation is vital to effectiveness, production, or necessary for something to happen? (Events, Preparing for Tests, etc).

So here is a key thought: Preparation is a critical part of the success and fulfillment of any meaningful activity, and that certainly includes the activity of prayer in the life of the Christ-follower.

Prayer is as basic and essential to our spiritual lives as Christ-followers as breathing is to our physical lives as human beings. It's our lifeline to the very throne room of God.

(Teacher: Have a class member look up and read the following verses of scripture related to prayer)

- Hebrews 4:16 – *"Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time."*

ASK: What does this teach us about prayer?

SAY: On multiple occasions, Jesus both taught about prayer and modeled prayer:

- Mark 1:35 – *"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, went out, and made His way to a deserted place. And He was praying there."*

- Matthew 7:7 – *Jesus said, “Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, [b] and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”*
- John 14:14 – *Jesus said, “If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”*

So right here in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount – His most important sermon – Jesus gives His most important teaching on this most important activity that we must practice – the activity of prayer. These 4 verses preceding the Lord’s Prayer can be summed up in these 2 statements:

1. When you pray, you cannot be fake; you must be genuine (real). – v. 5-6
2. Do not pray meaningless, hollow prayers. Pray with faith and trust in God. – v. 7-8

To prepare to pray, we have to do several things:

PRAYER LESSON # 1: To be effective in prayer, we must deal with our hypocrisy! 5 *“Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. I assure you: They’ve got their reward!”*

ASK: How would you define the word “hypocrisy” or “hypocrite”?

There are a few times recorded in scripture when in Jesus’ earthly life that we see Him really show His disdain for certain things. Notice a few examples:

Example # 1: We see an example of this when money changers were defiling the Temple – In Matthew 21:12-13, Jesus said, *“It is written, My house will be called a house of prayer. But you are making it a den of thieves!”*

Example # 2: The other was when He was denouncing the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23:1-36. He lays those guys out – “hypocrites” – “blind guides” – “snakes” – “brood [sons] of vipers”

It is obvious that Jesus hates hypocrisy, the sin of play-acting; of using religion and religious practices to cover up sin that’s in our lives. Greek word for “hypocrite” literally means “an actor who wears a mask.” The mask conceals who they really are but shows who they want the audience to see.

In our preparation for this study, hypocrisy needs to be dealt with. The hypocrisy that Jesus is referring to here is the actions of those who want to pray in public so others will THINK that they are really spiritual.

Pastor and Author John MacArthur says that those who are praying this way are praying from a motive of “sinful self-glory,” and that is one of the most serious perversions of what prayer is ultimately supposed to be all about.

Note: In no way is Jesus condemning public prayer. There is absolutely nothing wrong with praying in public. In fact, we ought to pray in public. But there’s a lot wrong with praying in public to try and make others think you are spiritually mature or right with God when you know in your heart that you are definitely NOT right with God. Before we ever utter a word of prayer in public, we need to make sure that we have been spending time with God in prayer in private, getting our heart right before Him. Which leads to the next point:

PRAYER LESSON # 2: Designate a Place to pray as a Discipline of Prayer

6 But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Here is the question: Where is “your room”, “your closet” (KJV), “your most private room” (AMP)? Again, Jesus is not speaking against praying in public. There are times when public prayer is appropriate and needed and essential. But His point is that we must have a faithful, consistent private prayer life in order to grow in our relationship with Him. This is what we will be working on individually and with each other during this prayer study.

One of the best ways to discipline yourself for prayer is to have a designated place where you consistently go to commune and fellowship with God in prayer. This is not a command that has to be taken literally – you don’t have to actually go into an actual closet in your home to pray, although there is certainly nothing wrong with that either. But the principle of dedicated, passionate, fervent, private prayer is one that we find all throughout the Bible.

5 Practical reasons to designate a place:

1. Makes you be intentional in your prayer life by having a certain location or place!
ASK: Where are other areas in life where we designate a certain place to do certain things? (Go to a gym to workout, restaurant to eat, school to learn, etc)
1. It shows that you believe that private prayer is important (Important enough for you to dedicate space for it).
2. It develops the necessary intimacy with the Lord.
3. It frees you from distractions.
4. It is a place where you can be alone and be yourself before God.

In Colossians 4:2, Paul says, “Devote yourselves to prayer...” Designating a place helps you to do that.

PRAYER LESSON # 3: Don’t Use Meaningless Words, Clichés, or Repetitious Phrases

7 When you pray, don’t babble like the idolaters, since they imagine they’ll be heard for their many words.

Note: The word “babble” in HCSB or “empty phrases” in the ESV (“vain repetitions” – KJV) is actually one word in the Greek – battalogo (pronounced bat tah low gay oh) which means to stammer; to say the same thing over and over again. Jesus is not telling us that we can’t repeat prayer requests and needs to Him. You don’t pray for your spouse once and never again – kids, grandkids, etc.

The emphasis here is not on the length of the prayer but on the attitude of the heart in prayer. Mindlessly repeating words and incantations as if you are praying is senseless and useless. Why would Jesus say this?

- Pagans believed their gods had to be awakened or prodded to hear them.
- Buddhists spin prayer wheels and think that every time the wheel turns, prayers are being sent to their god.
- Catholics believe that a lit candle will keep their prayers going to God after they’ve left the church.
- Even the Lord’s Prayer given here in this passage is often mindlessly repeated by sports teams before and after games. That’s not true prayer and has nothing to do with the success of the team on the field or court.

ASK: Do you believe that the length of prayer is important? Some believe that they have to pray long, elaborate prayers in order to really pray. Again, not true. Nothing wrong with long prayers (The great preacher of another century, John Wesley, prayed for 4 hours every morning). But sometimes, an honest heartfelt, Spirit-led prayer may be nothing more than the whispering of a name to the Lord or just saying the Name, “Jesus,” or the statement, “Help me, Lord,” is the sincerest prayer you can pray. That’s the “The urgent request (prayer) of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.” (James 5:16).

PRAYER LESSON # 4: Depend on God with every part of your life

8 Don’t be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask Him.

ASK: Why do we not depend on God more? What are some areas in our lives where we should depend on God more than we do right now? What are areas in our church where we need to depend on God more?

God wants to spend time with us, to hear from us, His children. He longs to fellowship with us, to communicate with us, to speak to us, more than we could ever want to be with Him. We don’t come to God to badger Him, to wake Him up, or to inform Him of our needs. He already knows our needs, and we can depend on Him to meet those needs.

CONCLUSION – So, what’s your takeaway from this lesson today?

- ▶ Is there some hypocrisy in your life that you need to deal with?
- ▶ Do you need to designate a place for regular, consistent prayer?
- ▶ Have you just been going through the motions in your prayer life, just using meaningless, repetitious words?

► Do you need to depend on God more?

(Note: Teacher, at this point you can lead in this prayer, or you can assign each one of these 5 prayer focuses below to 5 different people in your class to end the class in a time of prayer.)

So, today we end this lesson on prayer by praying. Here are the prayer focuses for our class today:

1. Let's pray that God speaks to us in a special and life-changing way as we read the book, HE. WE. THEY., over the next 5 weeks.
2. Let's pray that God uses these 40 days to lead us to people to whom we can minister, share the gospel, and encourage for Him.
3. Let's recommit ourselves to one another and this class in prayer today.
4. Let's recommit ourselves to reaching those who have been absent from our class through prayer and action today.
5. Let's pray for each of the small group (Sunday School) lessons and the sermons to be practical in nature and ones that will challenge us and change us over the next 40 days.

Lesson #1: God as our Father

Note: All scriptures are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible- HCSB unless otherwise noted

SAY: Last week we officially launched a 40-day, church-wide emphasis called “HE. WE. THEY. Prayer Model Campaign” by Dwayne. I want to remind each of you that this church-wide emphasis is a focus on what is commonly known as “The Lord’s Prayer” or “The Model Prayer.” What each of us needs to make this church-wide Emphasis most effective both in our own personal lives and the life of our church are these things:

- A commitment to attend each week of the church-wide emphasis.
- A copy of the book, HE. WE. THEY. The Life-Altering Formula of the Model Prayer, which you will read and interact with 5 days a week over the next 5 weeks. You should have read and interacted with WEEK ONE this past week as the basis for our lesson and discussion today.
- A concern to learn how to pray, why to prayer, what to pray, and a plan to continue praying daily when the emphasis of the study is complete.
- A conviction that a Christian should be praying for his or her church, fellow believers in their small group class and for the lost daily.

>>OPTIONAL: Play Week 1 Teaching Video by Dwayne Moore (available as a download or streaming in the HE. WE. THEY. Campaign Kit)

The lesson today is designed to help launch into and understand all the elements of “The Lord’s Prayer” and how this applies to our everyday lives. Let’s begin with a quick review:

Here is how we defined prayer...everyone read this out loud together: Prayer is openly communicating with God (both talking and listening) as a priority of our daily lives for the purpose of getting to know God better and learn to live out His purposes for our lives in practical and effective ways as a worshipper.

ILLUSTRATION: Down through the centuries, the Lord's Prayer has touched millions of lives, and Todd Beamer was one of those lives. You might remember that Todd was one of the heroes on United Airlines Flight 93 during the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001. Flight 93 was one of the four planes hijacked on that terrible day. The Islamic terrorists on Todd's flight were headed for the White House or the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., but a group of brave passengers stormed the pilot compartment and foiled the terrorists' plan. Tragically, all lives were lost when the plane went down in the Pennsylvania countryside.

After passengers were first herded to the back of the jet, Todd Beamer called the GTE Customer Center in Oakbrook, Illinois. He told supervisor Lisa Jefferson about the

hijacking. Todd also told her that they were planning to jump the terrorists. And then he asked Lisa to pray with him.

Todd said, "I don't think we're going to get out of this thing. I'm going to have to go out on faith." Todd began to pray, and another passenger named Jefferson joined him: "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. . ." As they finished the Lord's Prayer, Todd added 3 words: "Jesus, help me." (September 10, 2012 – "A Final Prayer" by Jim Grassi - What are You Afraid Of? - "Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior." - Psalm 38:22)

Our scripture comes from Matthew 6:9, which says this: (READ this out loud together) Jesus said...9 *"Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy (HCSB).*

The New King James Version says it like this: Jesus said... 9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name (NKJV).

ASK: 1. What do you think of when you read these words "Our Father in heaven"?
2. If God's name is to be "hallowed" or "honored as holy", what do you think that means?

Let's start with the key phrase, "OUR FATHER"

There are several key lessons we learn about God, our Father in these first few words:

I. OUR FATHER LOVES US

This phrase, "Our Father," speaks of a relationship between us and God, the Creator and the Sustainer of the entire universe. Therefore, this is a very powerful statement.

Here is the key question: IS GOD TRULY YOUR FATHER? The answer is either a clear "yes" or a sad "no". To say something like, "I hope so" or "Maybe" would be to say "No! God is not my Father." There is a very clear misconception in our world today about God as our Father. We live in a politically correct society that says, "God is the Father of the entire human race." This is a lie. God is the Creator of the entire human race, but He is only our Father through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In John 8:42-45, the Pharisees and religious leaders were claiming to be God's children but listen to what Jesus said to them:

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, because I came from God and I am here. For I didn't come on My own, but He sent Me. 43 Why don't you understand what I say? Because you cannot listen to My word. 44 You are of your father the Devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of liars. 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.

What we learn is that our Father loves us because we have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. Therefore, this Lord's Prayer or this Model Prayer is not for the unbeliever but for the children of God.

In the HE. WE. THEY., week 1 day 2 reading, Dwayne Moore quotes Dr. Adrian Rogers book, *When We Say Father*, where Dr. Rogers reminds us of this truth: "Everybody has God all to Himself. In fact, God does love us all; He loves us each." God loves EACH of us! That is a powerful thought.

ASK: What real difference in your life does it make to know that God knows everything there is about your life and yet He loves YOU personally and individually?

II. OUR FATHER LOOKS OUT FOR US

While earthly fathers make mistakes and are far from perfect, we cannot compare our earthly father to our heavenly Father who is perfect. Through Jesus, God the Father always looks out for us. In other words, He seeks to watch over us, correct us, and protect us.

Jesus gave us this as an illustration in Matthew 7:9-11, when Jesus said,
9 What man among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

ASK: 1. What are some of the good gifts or good things God has brought into our lives for which we as worshippers should thank Him?

2. What are some ways you have seen God protect you, watch over you, or correct you in your own life?

III. OUR FATHER LISTENS TO US

Go back to our definition of prayer: Prayer is openly communicating with God (both talking and listening) as a priority of our daily lives.

While others may want to ignore you, God our Father wants to communicate with you. He wants to talk to you and listen to you as a priority. In HE. WE. THEY. week 1 day 4, Dwayne Moore says this: "Prayer from a worshiping heart is the kind of prayer God is sure to hear and answer."

ASK: We are a people who have trouble listening to one another. God is not like us. He listens to us. Why do we have trouble listening to one another? Is there anything about us that deserves God listening to us? Take a minute and write on the board or on this listening sheet 3 things you need to talk to God about today as a priority.

IV. OUR FATHER LEADS US TO ONE ANOTHER

The phrase, “Our Father”, implies the fact that we belong to one another as God’s people. We are a part of God’s family as a Christian. We are Kingdom citizens together with God. We are in essence the literal family of God.

We are made by God to live in community with one another. We need one another. We need to pray for one another. We are to minister to and serve one another because God is “our Father.” We are never alone or without help.

ASK: What difference does it make in our lives that we can be together in a small group Sunday School class? Because God is “our Father,” what difference does it make as we serve one another and minister to one another?

V. OUR FATHER ALLOWS US TO LIVE FOREVER

Our Father in heaven...This speaks clearly to us about our final destination as God’s people. As a child of God, we are not made for this earth, but we are pilgrims passing through on our way home to heaven. When God is “our Father”, we have a home in heaven promised to us.

ASK: Can you confidently say that the Heavenly Father is your Father? God wants us to be sure!

Listen to what John says in 1 John 5:10-13,

“10 (The one who believes in the Son of God has this testimony within him. The one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony God has given about His Son.) 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 The one who has the Son has life. The one who doesn’t have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

If you cannot confidently say that God is your Father because of a relationship with Jesus Christ, then TODAY is the day to make this life-changing decision.

VI. OUR FATHER LIVES IN THE PRAISE OF HIS PEOPLE

“Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy” - This statement reveals the very nature of God. God is holy! Because God is holy, we are to worship Him. This prayer is a worship prayer!

Dwayne Moore says this about the Lord’s Prayer and worship in HE. WE. THEY. week 1 Day 4: “The way the Lord’s Prayer lifts our thoughts and hearts toward the Father, the way it places our burdens before him, and the uncanny way it climaxes with exuberant adoration and a rousing amen- everything about this amazing model prayer expresses our complete dependence and trust in God. One cannot pray the Lord’s Prayer in earnest without realizing God is God and we are not.”

When we say that the Name of the Lord is to be honored as holy or “hallowed,” this means that the Lord and His Name should be celebrated, worshipped, and esteemed as holy everywhere, in all times, in every way, and in all places., God should receive proper honor for who He is and what He is done in our lives.

CONCLUSION: Today, let's conclude our lesson by praising the Name of the Lord and let's list on the board or on our listening sheets two categories:

- Praise God for who He is:
- Praise God for what He has done:

So, today we end this lesson on prayer by praying. Here are the prayer focuses for our class today:

1. Let's pray that God speaks to us in a special and life-changing way as we read week 2 from the book, HE. WE. THEY., over the next week.
2. Let's pray that God uses this campaign to lead us to people to whom we can minister, share the gospel, and encourage for Him.
3. Let's recommit ourselves to one another and this class in prayer today.
4. Let's recommit ourselves to reaching those who have been absent from our class through prayer and action today.
5. Let's pray for each of the small group (Sunday School) lessons and the sermons to be practical in nature and ones that will challenge us and change us.

Lesson #2: The Kingdom and Will of God

Note: All scriptures are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible- HCSB unless otherwise noted

SAY: Last week we studied our first lesson on “The Lord’s Prayer” or “The Model Prayer” while focusing on the first part of the prayer, “Our Father in heaven, Your Name be honored as holy.” Today, we continue our study called, “HE. WE. THEY. Prayer Model Campaign”, by looking at a second section of the prayer.

Look with me again at the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Let’s read it out loud together:

9 “Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]”

>>OPTIONAL: Play Week 2 Teaching Video by Dwayne Moore (available as a download or streaming in the HE. WE. THEY. Campaign Kit)

Today, we are going to focus our time together on studying verse 10, where Jesus says, 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Today, we will see two very important things:

I. THE QUESTION OF THE KINGDOM MUST BE ANSWERED

► QUESTION # 1: WHAT IS GOD’S KINGDOM?

ASK: When the Bible talks about God’s “Kingdom” or the “Kingdom of God” or “Kingdom of Heaven”, what do you think that means? What is a Kingdom? Who rules over a Kingdom?

In week 2, Day 5, of our reading from Dwayne Moore’s Book, *HE. WE. THEY.*, Dwayne quoted Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones’ book, *The Kingdom of God*, where he explains that God’s Kingdom is “the rule of God” or “the reign of God. It means the coming of righteousness and the coming of peace. It means that evil is controlled and defeated; it means that God’s blessings are showered upon the Christian. It means that we bask in the sunshine of God’s favour (p. 23).”

The Kingdom of God is comprised of God's perfect rule, reign, and righteousness throughout the universe at all times and in all places.

► **QUESTION # 2: WHO IS IN GOD'S KINGDOM?**

Simply put, the Kingdom of God is the rule of Christ over the hearts and lives of all who are genuinely His children by His grace through our faith in Him to forgive our sins and save us. We must realize that as Christians, we are living as citizens of God's Kingdom. Note: It is NOT our Kingdom. It is God's Kingdom. We do not build our kingdom; we are building His Kingdom.

In one sense, God's Kingdom is already here as Christ reigns in us right now as His children. However, the Kingdom is still yet to come because we are imperfect, fallible, and sinful. We easily fall prey to temptation and the lures of this world. Therefore, while God's Kingdom is here, His perfect Kingdom will not be fully established until He comes again. Therefore, we are to pray for God's Kingdom to come on earth in its final and perfect way. This is the hope of all believers as we know that when the Lord returns, He will set everything right.

ASK: How often do you feel this tension between living as Kingdom citizens now in this world but knowing that we are imperfect and fallible? What are some things we can do in practical ways to help keep ourselves focused on God's Kingdom and not get distracted by this world? How can we help each other do these things?

► **QUESTION # 3: HOW DOES GOD'S KINGDOM "COME"?**

There is a lot of debate on this question in theological circles. However, when we remember that this is a prayer, it helps clear things up for us. This is an evangelistic, missionary prayer of God's people. As Christians, we are tasked with sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20). It should be the priority of each individual Christian to want to see the reign of God come into the hearts of all people through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (See Mt. 7:7; Mark 9:29; Acts 4:31; Acts 13:3).

We are praying evangelistically, but we are also praying for our own discipleship when we pray Your kingdom come. You see, our natural bent in this life is to pray, "My kingdom come. My will be done!" Throughout scripture, whenever we see people focusing on building their own kingdom, we see a great fall coming into their lives or we even see God's people falling prey to sin.

ASK: 1. What are some examples you can think of from scripture? (David with Bathsheba; King Nebuchadnezzar building a statue to himself and commanding people to worship it in Dan. 4:30-33; King Agrippa I in Acts 12:21-23; the rich young ruler in Luke 12:18-20).

2. What are some ways our class can be a part of God's Kingdom coming on earth?

► **QUESTION # 4: WHY DO WE NEED GOD'S KINGDOM TO COME?**

We need the Kingdom to come and be realized on this earth because we look across our world, and we see the people of God fragmented and fearful. We seem to be discouraged and in disarray. We simply get our priorities misplaced as God's people. We get our focus on ourselves and of the Lord's mission. We seek what we want and not what God wants. The result is that we become ineffective in our ministry, anemic in our witness, powerless in our prayers, and leave this lost world without a clear gospel witness.

Look at this verse, and everyone read it out loud together: *Jesus said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you."*

ASK: What are at least 2 ways we can follow this command of Jesus starting today?

1. _____
2. _____

What are at least 2 ways we can follow this command of Jesus as a class starting today?

1. _____
2. _____

II. THE QUESTION OF THE KINGDOM MUST BE APPLIED

In his book, *On Earth as it is in Heaven*, Warren Weirsbe says, "Prayer is a partnership between God and His church that enables Him to accomplish His will on earth through the witness of His obedient people." Weirsbe goes on to say, "The immediate purpose of prayer is the accomplishing of God's will on earth; the ultimate purpose of prayer is the eternal glory of God (p. 78)."

To pray for God's Kingdom to come is to literally pray, "God, apply your Kingdom purposes in and through my life so that Your will is done in me, through me, and around me each day."

Too often, we think of prayer in a backwards sort of way. We think prayer is asking God for what we want (our will), adding Jesus' Name on the end of the prayer and expecting God to deliver. This is not the true prayer of a worshipper. The true prayer of a worshipper means that we pray like Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before facing death on the cross for our sins when He said, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will."

ASK: How would it change our individual lives if we started praying to God the Father, "Not as I will, but as you will?" How would it change our families? How would it change our finances? How would it change our class? How would it change our church?

James, the ½ brother of Jesus, points out the fallacy in much of our praying when he said this in James 4:3, "*You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your evil desires.*"

CONCLUSION:

Today, this should be the prayer of our hearts toward God, toward our church, toward our families, and toward one another:

God, today I am making myself completely open and fully available for You to use me in your Kingdom here on this earth. Use me to help see Your Kingdom begin to reign in the hearts of the lost all around me. Use me to live out Your will and purposes as a priority of my life, not so that others might see me, but so they might see You and Your greatness in and through my life. Make Your agenda my agenda. Make Your priorities my priorities. Make Your will to be my will!

This kind of praying would bring about personal revival in our own lives. It would bring about a real revival in our families and relationships. It would change us forever!

So, today we end this lesson on prayer by praying. Here are the prayer focuses for our class today:

1. Let's pray that God speaks to us in a special and life-changing way as we read week 3 from the book, HE. WE. THEY., over the next week.
2. Let's pray that God uses this study to lead us to people to whom we can minister, share the gospel, and encourage for Him.
3. Let's recommit ourselves to one another and this class in prayer today.
4. Let's recommit ourselves to reaching those who have been absent from our class through prayer and action today.
5. Let's pray for each of the small group (Sunday School) lessons and the sermons to be practical in nature and ones that will challenge us and change us.

Lesson #3: Asking God to meet Our Greatest Needs

Note: All scriptures are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible- HCSB unless otherwise noted

SAY: Last Sunday we studied our 2nd lesson on “The Lord’s Prayer” or “The Model Prayer” while focusing on the first part of the prayer, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done.”

Today, we continue our 40-day, church-wide emphasis called, “*HE. WE. THEY. Prayer Model Campaign*”, by looking at the third section of the prayer. Look with me again at the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Let’s read it out loud together:

9 “Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]”

Today, we are going to focus our time together on studying verses 11 and 12 which say, 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

ASK: 1. Do you believe God can do anything? If yes, then what evidence do you have to prove that? 2. Dwayne Moore said in the week 3, day 2 reading that “We must ask for things that are within the parameters of His (God’s) written Word, the Bible. Prayer is not a genie in a bottle.” In what ways are Christians guilty of treating prayer like it is a “genie in a bottle”?

>>OPTIONAL: Play Week 3 Teaching Video by Dwayne Moore (available as a download or streaming in the HE. WE. THEY. Campaign Kit)

We have spent the past couple of lessons and the Pastor’s Sunday sermons focusing our attention on God Himself. The goal of the first two verses of this prayer is to help us focus all of our attention, first on God, before we focus the prayer on ourselves. In other words, the first part of the prayer helps prepare our hearts to better talk to God about our needs.

Let’s spend a few minutes today asking God to meet two of our greatest needs:

Request # 1: God give us what we need Daily! Give us today our daily bread.

There are 2 very important things we need to see about this prayer for what we need daily:

► This is a prayer of Humility.

When we pray for God to “Give us today our daily bread” what we are doing is humbly admitting to God that we cannot meet our own needs. We are admitting to God that we must have Him to meet our needs.

ASK: 1. Why do even Christians have such a hard time admitting we have needs we cannot meet? 2. What are some ways that in our lives we act like we are not dependent on God?

In Philippians 4:19, Paul says, *“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”*

ASK: What do you think Jesus means when He says we should pray for our daily bread?

This phrase our daily bread literally means “the bread for the next 24 hours.” This is our essentials for the next day of life. Daily bread represents all that we need to sustain life. Therefore, we must pray with humility in asking God for what we need to sustain life. Pastor and Author Rick Warren, says it like this: “The goal is to pray for our needs and not our ‘greeds’.”

ASK: In what ways are we guilty of praying for our “greeds” instead of our needs?

► This is a prayer of Honor.

This part of the prayer not only is to be prayed with humility, but we are to realize that this part of the prayer is prayed to honor God. Why? Because we are recognizing that all we are and all that we have comes from God. We are simply stewards and managers of those things for which God blesses us.

We read this in James 1:17, *“Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights ...”*

In 1 Chronicles 29:14, King David said this: “14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? For everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your own hand.”

We see God’s grace and blessings in our lives in WHAT He gives us and also in the WAY He gives it to us. Therefore, we must use these gifts for our good, the good of others, and the glory of God.

ASK: 1. What are some specific ways we can use God’s gifts for our own good? 2. What are some specific ways we can use God’s gifts for the good of others? 3. What are some specific ways we can use God’s gifts for His glory?

Request #2: God forgive us our Debts

12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. We read in the paraphrase The Message these words: Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.

ASK: 1. What is a debt? 2. What do you think Jesus specifically means when He talks about our debts?

When Jesus talks about debts, He is talking about sin. In other words, Jesus is saying that our greatest need in life is not daily food, but daily forgiveness. Forgiveness is the one thing only God can offer through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sins.

Peter described Jesus' sacrifice for our sins like this in 1 Peter 3:18, *"For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God..."*

What Peter describes for us here are several key things related to the forgiveness we so desperately need:

► Jesus' death was a suffering death which provides us forgiveness

We read in Isaiah 53:5, "But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds."

► Jesus' death was a singular death which provides us forgiveness

Peter teaches us that Jesus died once for all. Only Jesus could pay the debt of our sin. John the Baptist described it like this in John 1:29, when he said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

► Jesus' death was a substitutionary death which provides us forgiveness

Peter tells us that Jesus' death was the righteous for the unrighteous. Jesus literally took our place on the cross.

► Jesus' death was a saving death which provides us forgiveness

Peter boldly tells us that Jesus is the only way we can be brought to God.

We need God's forgiveness, but this forgiveness comes with further instruction from Jesus. Remember again what Jesus said in the Model Prayer: *12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

ASK: 1. What do you think Jesus means when He says, as we also have forgiven our debtors (those who have sinned against us)? 2. Why do you think this is important to God and a condition of our own forgiveness?

We read this in Matthew 18:21-22,

"21 Then Peter came to Him and said, 'Lord, how many times could my brother sin against me and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' 22 'I tell you, not as many as seven,' Jesus said to him, 'but 70 times seven.'

Paul teaches us this in Colossians 3:12-13,

“12 Therefore, God’s chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, 13 accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive.”

Paul also teaches us this same truth in Ephesians 4:32, when he says, *“And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.”* As Dwayne Moore said in our reading from this week in day 3, *“That is God’s will, and we are praying for His will to be done on earth...Every day we should be breathing in and breathing out forgiveness. Breathe in our own forgiveness because of Jesus’ work on the cross for us and breathe out forgiveness for others because of the Holy Spirit who loves and forgives through us.”*

CONCLUSION:

Today let’s finish our lesson with our heads bowed and eyes closed. I am going to prompt you through some things for which we need to pray:

1. What are some needs in your life that you need to ask God for today? (Maybe it is a relationship need, a financial need, a job need, a need with a family member, making a decision, stopping a habit, starting or attempting something new for the Lord)
2. What are some things in our lives that we need to consciously seek to ask God for forgiveness?
3. Is there someone in your life who you need to forgive? The fact is that they may not deserve your forgiveness, no more than we deserve God’s forgiveness. However, to be right with God we need to talk to God right now about forgiving them right now. Now let’s commit to God that we will go and offer that forgiveness to this person or persons whether or not they receive it so we can be right before God.

Here are the prayer focuses for our class this week:

1. Let’s pray that God speaks to us in a special and life-changing way as we read week 4 from the book, HE. WE. THEY., over the next week.
2. Let’s pray that God uses this study to lead us to people to whom we can minister, share the gospel, and encourage for Him.
3. Let’s recommit ourselves to one another and this class in prayer today.
4. Let’s recommit ourselves to reaching those who have been absent from our class through prayer and action today.
5. Let’s pray for each of the small group (Sunday School) lessons and the sermons to be practical in nature and ones that will challenge us and change us.

Lesson #4: God's leading and Deliverance in our Lives

Note: All scriptures are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible- HCSB unless otherwise noted

SAY: Last Sunday we studied our third lesson on "The Lord's Prayer" or "The Model Prayer" while focusing on the part of the prayer, *"11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."*

>>OPTIONAL: Play Week 4 Teaching Video by Dwayne Moore (available as a download or streaming in the HE. WE. THEY. Campaign Kit)

Today, we continue our 40-day, church-wide emphasis called, "HE. WE. THEY. Prayer Model Campaign", by looking at the fourth section of the prayer. Look with me again at the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Let's read it out loud together:

9 "Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]"

Today, we are going to focus our time together on studying the first part of verse 13 which says, *13 And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.* The paraphrase The Message does a good job describing the words of Jesus in terms we can better understand when it says this: *Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.*

ASK: 1. Are there times when we need to be safe from ourselves?
2. Have anyone in this room ever made a really poor decision that resulted in consequences?
3. What are some ways we can be our own worst enemies?

This part of the prayer relates directly to our protection as God's people. What we need to understand about this request is that we know from scripture that God is NOT the one who tempts us. We read in James 1:13, *"No one undergoing a trial should say, 'I am being tempted by God.' For God is not tempted by evil, and He Himself doesn't tempt anyone." So, when we are praying this prayer, we are not saying "God, please don't tempt me."*

This prayer request includes 2 very important requests:

Request # 1: God, I need your Direction

The first part of this request is admitting to God that we need His direction and leading in our lives. Any time we pray for God's direction or for God to lead us, we are submitting ourselves humbly to God.

- ASK: 1. Why do even Christians have trouble submitting themselves to God and His will?
2. Was there a time in your life when you knew God was leading you in a certain direction, but you resisted?
3. What kind of negative impact does resisting God's will have in our lives?

Our prayer for God to lead us or give us clear direction is to ask God to lead us to things that are good for us that glorify God and to lead us away from things that are worldly and cause us to lose our witness. It is a prayer for God to lead us in a good and right direction.

God's Word gives us other examples of this kind of prayer. In 1 Chronicles 4:10, *"Jabez called out to the God of Israel: 'If only You would bless me, extend my border, let Your hand be with me, and keep me from harm, so that I will not cause any pain.' And God granted his request."*

David prayed this in Psalm 19:12-14,
12 *"Who perceives his unintentional sins? Cleanse me from my hidden faults. 13 Moreover, keep Your servant from willful sins; do not let them rule over me. Then I will be innocent and cleansed from blatant rebellion. 14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer."*

On the night Jesus was betrayed, we read these words in Luke 22:39-40,
39 *"He (Jesus) went out and made His way as usual to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed Him. 40 When He reached the place, He told them, 'Pray that you may not enter into temptation.'"*

- ASK: 1. When Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, did the disciples fall into temptation? (Yes...they fell asleep, they all fled, Peter would even deny Christ).
2. What are some ways that we as Christians are guilty of leading others into temptation?
3. What are some ways we can help one another in this class to avoid temptation?

In his book, *On Earth as it is in Heaven*, author Warren Weirsbe said, "So when we pray 'lead us not into temptation,' we're saying to the Lord, 'Give me the faith I need to accept this trial and use it for your glory. Deepen my roots, increase my faith, and help me turn this testing into triumph and not temptation.' Then we rest on His Word, because that is the source and strength of our faith (pg. 122)."

Request # 2: God, I need your Deliverance

Satan...the evil one...is the tempter of God's people (See Matthew 4:3 and 1 Thessalonians 3:5). It was Satan who tempted and deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden. It was Satan who tempted Jesus for 40 days in the desert at the start of His ministry (Mark 1). In 2 Corinthians 11:3, Paul warned the believers in the churches in Corinth of Satan's temptation when he said,

3 "But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be seduced from a complete and pure devotion to Christ."

James tells us in 1:14-15, that temptation causes a lot of problems for our lives as followers of Jesus. He said,

14 "But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desires. 15 Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death." This is why we need to ask God for deliverance.

Listen to Jesus' own prayer for His disciples in John 17:15, when He prays, "I am not praying that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one."

We should be aware of Satan's strategy of temptation. Knowing the strategy of the opposition or even the enemy is the key to victory. We see coaches try and help their team win, not just by understanding their own strategy, but by also preemptively being aware of the strategies of the opposing team.

We already know that Satan is at work in and through the lives of both the lost and the disobedient believers in this world. If we are obedient to the Word and will of God, then we can be assured that Satan will attack us and try to move us away from God and His will for our lives.

ASK: 1. What are some ways right now that Satan attacks us and tries to move us out of God's will? (He attacks our thoughts, prayer life, our Bible study, our attendance, our giving, etc. He distracts us away from those things which are right and good. He keeps us busy with things that do not matter, etc.)

2. What are 3 practical ways that we can help one another stay in God's will?

Another reason we must pray for deliverance is because Satan hates the church. Satan uses every weapon available in his limited arsenal to deceive us, defile us, divide us, discourage us, disgrace us, and ultimately attempt to destroy us. Sadly, if we are not careful, WE can become the instruments and weapons of Satan in the church. This is why we must pray for God to give us direction and to deliver us!

ASK: Other than prayer, what are some other ways we can make sure that we do not become instruments or weapons used by Satan either for temptation or evil in our families, our church, or on our jobs?

CONCLUSION:

In our reading this week, Dwayne Moore challenged us in day 4 by asking us to think again about a temptation or trial we may be facing right now. He then challenged us to bring it to God in prayer right now by doing 3 things:

1. Admit you are unable to handle this issue on your own.
2. Acknowledge you need God's power and wisdom in relationship to this issue.
3. Align yourself right now with what God wants you to do and how he wants you to do it.

So, today we end this lesson on prayer by praying. Here are the prayer focuses for our class today:

1. Let's pray that God speaks to us in a special and life-changing way as we read week 5 from the book, HE. WE. THEY., over the next week.
2. Let's pray that God uses this study to lead us to people to whom we can minister, share the gospel, and encourage for Him.
3. Let's recommit ourselves to one another and this class in prayer today.
4. Let's recommit ourselves to reaching those who have been absent from our class through prayer and action today.
5. Let's pray for each of the small group (Sunday School) lessons and the sermons to be practical in nature and ones that will challenge us and change us.

Lesson #5: A Benediction of Praise

Note: All scriptures are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible- HCSB unless otherwise noted

SAY: Last Sunday we studied our third lesson on “The Lord’s Prayer” or “The Model Prayer” while focusing on the part of the prayer, “13 *And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*” Today, we continue our 40-day, church-wide emphasis called, “HE. WE. THEY. Prayer Model Campaign”, by looking at the final section of the prayer. Look with me again at the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Let’s read it out loud together:

9 “Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]”

>>OPTIONAL: Play Week 5 Teaching Video by Dwayne Moore (available as a download or streaming in the HE. WE. THEY. Campaign Kit)

Today, we are going to focus our time together on studying the final part of verse 13, For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

It is fitting for us to conclude our study on the Lord’s prayer with this benediction. Without this benediction, we would be ending the prayer focusing on the evil one. With this benediction, we get to refocus all of our attention on our Father. The reason we find these words in brackets is because most scholars tell us that the earliest known manuscripts do not include this benediction. It was probably added when the early church began to pray this prayer in public worship. As Warren Weirsbe points out in his book, *On Earth as it is in Heaven*, “In the Didache (The Teaching of the 12 Apostles), a second-century local church manual, it reads ‘For thine is the power and the glory forever’ (pg. 139).” Most Bible scholars point out that this benediction is based on the words of David in 1 Chronicles 29, during the commissioning of Solomon to build the Temple of God.

During this benediction, we get the opportunity to end our study by praising God for several important things as His people:

PRAISE FOCUS # 1: PRAISE OUR FATHER FOR HIS RULE OVER HIS PROVINCE

We are to pray For Yours is the kingdom. When we pray this, we are acknowledging that the Lord is in control. He is the King and Ruler over all things. Therefore, as citizens of His Kingdom, we must yield our lives to His will.

Too often, we live our lives as if we were in control. We live like the kingdom belongs to us instead of to our Father. When we live this way, we find ourselves falling out of fellowship both with God and His people.

ASK: 1. What is the root cause for us living like we are in control?
2. What are some things that we do that prove that we often live like the kingdom belongs to us instead of to God the Father?
3. What makes us think that we are in control of our lives when in fact we are not?

In Psalm 103:19, we read this about the Lord's rule over His Kingdom: "The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all."

PRAISE FOCUS # 2: PRAISE OUR FATHER FOR HIS POWER

For Yours is the kingdom and the power...

The word "power" here is sometimes translated in other ways, like "mighty works," "miracles," "might," or "strength." This word is used over a hundred times in the New Testament, and it shows up in Scriptures like Ephesians 3:20-21. There, Paul praised our God and said, "Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us— 21 to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Our Father is truly the One who reigns with all power. He is no figurehead. He is the ruler over all. This power we are to praise God for is the power that raised Jesus from the dead. This same power is available to all of us who are saved by the Lord. Paul said it this way in Romans 8:11, "And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through His Spirit who lives in you.."

Jesus said this to His disciples in Mark 10:27, "...all things are possible with God." This means that with us there are things that are impossible. There are many things in this life we cannot do. There are many things we cannot understand. There are many things in this life which we have no answers. Often, our lives are filled with the impossible because our power is very limited.

ASK: 1. What are some areas in our lives where we realize how limited our power really is?
2. What are some areas in your life right now where you need to see God's power at work?
3. What are some areas in our church where we need to see God's power at work?

PRAISE FOCUS # 3: PRAISE OUR FATHER FOR HIS PREEMINENCE

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory...

In the week 4, day 4, reading in the book, HE. WE. THEY., author Dwayne Moore said, "Some of the most prominent words for glory in the Bible are nouns. The glory that is His is not ultimately something God gets, as though more glory could be added to Him. It's not something He needs, and it's not something He does. Glory is who God is. It's the sum total of all His attributes, acts and character. His is the glory."

As we acknowledge, focus on, and praise God for His glory, He reveals more and more of Himself to us. The more we know of God, the more we are transformed ourselves. Paul said it like this in 2 Corinthians 3:18, *"We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit."*

When we make it the priority of our Christian lives to walk with God, communicate with Him, and live for Him, we will experience His glory in and through our lives as never before!

ASK: 1. When you read the word "glory", what do you think of?
2. What are some stories or examples from the Bible where God's glory was evident?
3. Where are areas in your own life where you see God's glory? How about our church?

PRAISE FOCUS # 3: PRAISE OUR FATHER FOR HIS PERMANENCE

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

We forget that many of the issues of this life that consume so much of our time, effort, and energy are things that are temporary. Much of the things that cause us anxiety, stress, and worry are temporary. For this reason, we should love this word forever because while we live in a world that is characterized by the temporary, we serve a God of permanence and eternity!

Prayer, therefore, is not a waste of our time. Prayer is an investment in eternity. For example, our prayers should include things that speak of our focus on eternity or forever. When we pray for lost family members, friends, or co-workers to be saved, we are praying about something that is forever.

As believers, we will enjoy heaven forever (Ps. 23:6). God's love endures forever (Psalm 1:36). God is forever faithful to us (Psalm 146:6). The faithful will receive a crown of glory that will last forever (1 Corinthians 9:25). We also know that God's Word endures forever (1 Peter 1:25).

In his book, *The Four Loves*, C.S. Lewis said, "All that is not eternal is eternally out of date (pg. 137)."

ASK: 1. Have you prepared for your 'forever'?
2. Have you shared with others closest to you about the love of Jesus to make sure they are prepared for their 'forever'?

CONCLUSION:

We've spent weeks talking about prayer. We have spent time praying. Now here is the question: Based on what we have learned and studied about prayer, what are 3 things I can do, change, or let God adjust in my life because of this study?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(Teachers record these responses)