

It's Deeper Than That – Week 3 Small Group Questions

Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker

1. Justin opened with how dark nursery rhymes get once you actually think about them (Rock-a-Bye Baby, Ring Around the Rosie, Three Blind Mice, "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep"). What's a nursery rhyme or kids' song you sang a thousand times growing up without ever thinking about what it actually meant?
2. Justin described pulling over with his mom just to take in a stunning sunset, both of them simply saying "Wow, God." When's the last time a view, a sunset, or a moment in nature stopped you in your tracks?

Main Scriptures: Matthew 6:9-13

Discuss

1. Read Matthew 6:9–13, the Lord's Prayer, in full. Before this week, how well could you actually explain what each line means, versus just being able to recite it?
2. Louie Giglio said, *"God is not the reflection of your earthly father. God is the perfection of your earthly father."* How does that quote land for you, based on your own experience with the father figures (or other authority figures) in your life?
3. Justin explained that the Greek word for "heaven" (ouranos) can simply mean "the air" — so "Our Father in the air," closer than your next breath. Read Psalm 139:7–10. How does it change your view of prayer to picture God's presence as literally as close as the air you breathe, rather than far off in the sky?
4. Read Matthew 6:9's "hallowed be your name." Timothy Keller said, *"To hallow God's name is to have a heart of grateful joy toward God — and even more, a wondrous sense of His beauty."* Justin said, "You can't hallow in a hurry." What's currently making your life too rushed to actually stop and hallow God's name?
5. Karl Barth said, *"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."* How does picturing prayer as "an uprising" change the way you think about praying?
6. Read Matthew 6:33. Justin said, "Nothing else matters as much to God as His Kingdom does. So we should pray like it matters to us." Does the way you actually pray reflect that priority right now? Why or why not?

7. N.T. Wright said, *"Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project, not to snatch people away from earth to heaven, but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about."* How does that change what you think you're actually asking for when you pray "your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"?

Practice

Identify one area of your life where you're running your own "kingdom" instead of welcoming God's. Pray "Your Kingdom come" over that specific area every day this week.