

Small Group Guide: THE LORD'S PRAYER: WORDS YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW - Everyday Fulfillment

Opening Question: What's one everyday "routine" you have (morning coffee, commute habit, evening ritual, etc.) that would surprise the rest of the group? Or... Briefly describe your morning routine.

Opening Prayer: *Father, thank You for bringing us together. As we talk about Your kingdom, Your power, and Your glory, help us see where we've been living for ourselves instead of for You. Open our hearts, sharpen our minds, and show us what needs to change this week. We invite Your Spirit to lead our conversation. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

KEY SERMON POINTS

Main Ideas

The Lord's Prayer is meant to be lived, not just recited. "Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever" is a daily posture, not just a church phrase.

Everyone has a "kingdom." Your relationships, job, dreams, fears, money, and time are your little kingdom. The question is: *Whose kingdom are you really living for—yours or God's?*

You were created for God. Not just created by God, but for His kingdom, by His power, and for His glory. When you live for yourself, you'll always feel like something is missing.

You will never be satisfied living for yourself. Even Christians can live with themselves at the center—then wonder why they don't experience the "abundant life" Jesus promised in John 10:10.

A fulfilled life has three big shifts:

Live by **God's agenda** (His kingdom first, not yours).

Live by **God's power** (expecting Him to work, stepping out in faith).

Live for **God's glory** (using your life so others see Him, not you).

Putting God FIRST touches every area:

Finances

Interests (hobbies, recreation, career)

Relationships

Schedule

Troubles

God's power is experienced through:

Prayer

Risky obedience (stepping into the "Jordan" before the waters part)

Not giving up through difficulties, delays, dead ends, and discouragement—trusting God for deliverance.

God's glory shows up when we:

Show love and acceptance (without necessarily approving of sin).

Use our gifts to serve others, not ourselves.

Share the good news so more and more people thank God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 6:33.

- In your real, everyday life, what does *seeking first His kingdom* look like?
- Where are you most tempted to worry about “all these things” (money, job, future, etc.) instead of trusting God?

2. Read Romans 11:36.

- How does this verse challenge the way you see your job, your family, your possessions, and even your struggles?
- What would change if you truly believed “all things” are *from, through, and to* God?

3. Read Ephesians 3:20.

- What are you currently asking or imagining that actually requires God’s power—*not* just your own effort?
- If your honest answer is “nothing,” what might that say about where you’ve been relying on your own power?

4. Read Joshua 3:7–8, 15–16 (priests stepping into the Jordan).

- Where do you sense God asking you to “step into the river” before you see Him move?
- What fears or excuses are keeping you on the riverbank?

5. Pastor Dan said, “You will never be satisfied living for yourself.”

- Have you ever reached a goal or milestone (career, financial, relational) and still felt like, “*Is this it?*”
- What did you learn from that experience?

6. Think about the **FIRST** acrostic (Finances, Interests, Relationships, Schedule, Troubles).

- Which one is currently **least** surrendered to God’s agenda (in your own life)?
- What’s one *specific* change you could make this week to put God “first” in that area?

7. God has given you gifts like a fruit tree bearing fruit for others.

- What “fruit” (gifts, skills, experiences) has God given you that others need?
- Where or with whom do you sense God nudging you to start serving or blessing others more intentionally?

8. Pastor Dan gave a challenge to invite people to church:

- Who in your life might be spiritually curious or far from God that you can invite?
- What holds you back from sharing or inviting, and how can our group pray for boldness for you?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS (Choose 1 or 2 that apply to you.)

1. ****Do a “Kingdom Inventory.”** Take 10–15 minutes alone and honestly answer:
 - What am I really living for right now?
 - Where am I clearly building my kingdom instead of God’s?
 - Write it down and ask God to show you one area to surrender.
2. **Put God First in ONE FIRST Area.**
 - Pick one: Finances, Interests, Relationships, Schedule, or Troubles.
 - Make a concrete change (e.g., start tithing or moving toward it; carve out a daily undistracted time with God; reconcile with someone; bring your current trouble to God first instead of last).
3. ****Take a “Jordan Step.”** Identify one step of obedience you’ve been avoiding (serving, forgiving, inviting someone to Easter, starting a ministry, addressing a habit, etc.), and actually do it this week —before you see the outcome.
4. **Intentionally Love & Serve One Person.**
 - Ask God to show you one person you can practically love this week (listening, helping, encouraging, buying a meal, etc.).
 - Serve them using one of your gifts or strengths, not for your praise, but for God’s glory.
5. **Pray Daily with Expectation.** Each day this week, pray specifically for:
 - God’s kingdom to come in one area of your life.
 - His power to work in one impossible situation.
 - At least one person you can invite or encourage spiritually.
 - Keep a simple journal of what you’re asking and how God answers.

MEMORY VERSE for the Week:

“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.” (Romans 11:36, NIV)

Closing Prayer: *Lord, thank You for what we’ve talked about today. Help us not just to understand these truths, but to live them. Show us where we’re clinging to our own kingdom, our own power, and our own glory. Teach us to seek Your kingdom first, to rely on Your power, and to live for Your glory this week. Give us courage to take the steps of obedience You’ve put on our hearts, and use us to point others to Jesus. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.*