

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

“Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done”

Pray Series

January 20/21, 2018

Main Idea:

It’s not until God’s Kingdom comes that everything will be set right.

Discovery Questions

1. Was there ever something you wanted as a kid that you constantly pestered your parents for? It could be a toy, an experience, or something else. How did it turn out?

In our current “Pray” series, we’re looking at each line of the Lord’s Prayer, which is the model for prayer that Jesus gave us in Matthew 6.

This week, we’ll consider the line, “Your kingdom come, your will be done,” which is ultimately a prayer for Jesus’ return to this earth and the return of God’s rule fully and finally on this earth.

2. Read Matthew 6:10 and Luke 18:1-8. What does Jesus teach us about prayer in these passages?

**3. a. What different beliefs, misconceptions or confusion have you seen people hold about prayer?
b. Who is someone you know that has modeled a strong prayer life? What has their prayer life shown or taught you?**

**4. a. How have you seen the power of prayer evidenced in your own life? Share specific examples.
b. Have you ever been frustrated with prayer? What led to that frustration? How have you handled that frustration?
c. How do you maintain your faith in the midst of “unanswered” prayers?
d. How does knowing that everything will be set right when Jesus returns both challenge you and give you hope?**

5. Not only can we pray, but we can also be part of the “answer” to our prayers by working to facilitate “God’s will” being done in our spheres of influence (work, school, home, family, community, neighborhood). What is a place in your life where God’s will is not currently being done, where you could have a positive influence? What step towards that will you take this week?

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DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Leader Guide

1. Was there ever something you wanted as a kid that you constantly pestered your parents for? It could be a toy, an experience, or something else. How did it turn out?

This is a “lighter” question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.

In our current “Pray” series, we’re looking at each line of the Lord’s Prayer, which is the model for prayer that Jesus gave us in Matthew 6.

This week, we’ll consider the line, “Your kingdom come, your will be done,” which is ultimately a prayer for Jesus’ return to this earth and the return of God’s rule fully and finally on this earth.

2. Read Matthew 6:10 and Luke 18:1-8. What does Jesus teach us about prayer in these passages?

In Matthew 6:10, there is an acknowledgement that we live in a world where God’s will is not always done, and that we are awaiting the day when God’s Kingdom will come to this earth, and God’s will is always done. This is ultimately a prayer for the end of the world.

In Luke 18:1-8, we learn a number of different things:

- *We learn that we should always pray and not give up (v. 1).*
- *We learn that God is not like the wicked judge; he is a compassionate Father who hears us and will answer our requests (vv. 2-8a).*
- *We learn that God will answer our requests for justice “quickly” (8a).*
- *We also learn that this “quickly” happens in God’s timing, as many of our requests will not be answered until Jesus returns (8b).*
- *Indeed, there may be such a delay that some people are tempted to give up on faith altogether (8b).*

Spend 5-7 minutes on this question.

**3. a. What different beliefs, misconceptions or confusion have you seen people hold about prayer?
b. Who is someone you know that has modeled a strong prayer life? What has their prayer life shown or taught you?**

For part “a,” there are lots of different thoughts out there. Some believe prayer is just wishful thinking and doesn’t accomplish anything; others believe that God is obligated to answer every prayer we “pray in faith,” as long as we “claim” the promises of God, etc. Those who don’t believe in God may also pray sometimes, hoping to reach the “universe” or some type of “energy” in their requests. (A recent study said that 1/5 non-Christians pray on a semi-regular basis.)

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

4. a. How have you seen the power of prayer evidenced in your own life? Share specific examples.
- b. Have you ever been frustrated with prayer? What led to that frustration? How have you handled that frustration?
- c. How do you maintain your faith in the midst of “unanswered” prayers?
- d. How does knowing that everything will be set right when Jesus returns both challenge you and give you hope?

For part “d,” it may challenge us because it means that there will be a lot of things we pray for that won’t get answered. That can be discouraging. But it should give us hope to know that Jesus does hear every prayer and does respond to it—and many of the “no’s” that we get in this life may turn into a “yes” in eternity. Therefore, as Christians we are always to keep our focus on the long run, looking for the hope of eternity and Jesus’ return when everything will finally be set right.

Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.

5. **Not only can we pray, but we can also be part of the “answer” to our prayers by working to facilitate “God’s will” being done in our spheres of influence (work, school, home, family, community, neighborhood). What is a place in your life where God’s will is not currently being done, where you could have a positive influence? What step towards that will you take this week?**

When we see situations at work, at school, in our community, etc. where God’s will is not being done, we have a responsibility to work for His will to be accomplished. This means we should work to overturn unjust situations, stand on the side of the outcast, support the wounded and those going through tough times, be generous with our resources, etc. Think of a situation that you know of where God’s will is not currently being done, and think of a way that you can bring God’s will to that situation this week.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.