

Prayer series 2: The Lord's Prayer ALL AGE 13/9/15

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Song 1: 590 Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Alise: So this morning we are going to be thinking about prayer

(Be a bit distracted....) But before we do this I'm a bit stressed and it is playing on my mind so maybe you could join with me in my daily practice of a new language I am learning, then I can relax. It is really important that I learn it as we are going on a youth weekend away next weekend with Rock Solid to a rural outpost of Northampton (**S**) and it's been said that we should learn a little bit of their local language to show respect – apparently the sessions are going to be in both languages which is a relief – but the basics...

Repeat after me..... (**SLIDE**)

- Esaelp – Please (e-sa-elp)
- Sknaht – Thanks
- Olleh – Hello (O-leh)
- Drol eht esiarp - Praise the Lord

New languages can be fun to learn but not always easy.

I think prayer can seem a bit like a new language. When I first became a Christian and went to a meeting it ended in prayer and it went around the circle and everyone prayed out loud in turn. I was terrified as my turn approached. (**SLIDE**) What were we doing when we were praying? It felt as natural as making a speech in Taiwanese – I didn't know what words to pick or whether there was a special vocabulary I had to use....it was a bit scary to start with. I had heard some of their prayers – beautiful and they made my heart soar, but sometimes people pray using words we don't understand and we feel like we can't join in. Sometimes we struggle to find the right words when we are trying to talk to God, the words just won't come.

But the good news for all of us is that prayer is simply talking to our dad in heaven. (**SLIDE**) Jesus in fact gave us some words to help us to pray – they weren't hard words, but they are deep words. What do I mean by thatwell if we pray them not just with our lips, but with our hearts and our minds, then our lives, our priorities everything will be different. But one of the most important things Jesus says is that we can call God 'Father' – not Your Excellency, but Dad. (Thought about that a couple of weeks ago – parable of Prodigal Son – God is a loving Father who welcomes us, blesses us and celebrates with us.)

So today is an exciting day because we are going to think a bit more about what the Lord's Prayer teaches us. But before we have our reading from the Bible I think we should sing a song. Picking up on that first word Daddy we are going to sing: **Song 2: No.1 Abba Father**

Reading: Matthew 6:5-15

Matt: So we're going to be thinking about this amazing prayer – but before we do that, let's remind ourselves of what we learnt last week – when and where can we pray to God? (**SLIDE**) And what is prayer (**SLIDE**) – LP perfectly shows all these things. Sort of prayer we can use anytime; and it's kind of a lifeline prayer isn't it – about all the important stuff. And we can pray it knowing we're talking to our heavenly dad.

Who likes asking their mum or dad for things? Who has asked mum or dad for something this morning? What was it? (Birthday? Christmas? Stay up late? Do a particular thing?) We like asking mums and dads for stuff – and same with God. God says – you can see me as a parent, so don't be afraid to ask me! Don't need to make a show of it. Or use loads of words. And Lord's Prayer is basically 7 requests (**SLIDE** – READ – perfection). Divided into 3:

First 3: READ (S). God's name, glory and kingdom – what does that mean? It means reminding ourselves of how Big God is and how worth praising he is. It is also about reminding ourselves that he is the boss that he is in charge and that we need to talk to him about the things in our world that are not right. In prayer, so when we are talking to God we are asking that more of God's will, more of his power, will be brought to earth here and now.

Clear up one thing – parents – if child is nice to you, you know they want something. Not trying to butter God up! Really want God to be honoured.

Middle 1 (S): practical needs READ. What does that mean? (ASK) I think it means all that we need for today – so God does want to hear what we need to get through our day, whether that is food and water or maybe courage to be brave or kindness to forgive. All that we need to represent him well today – not in the future for right now. (Don't ask me: what lunch on Tuesday?)

Final 3 requests about our spiritual needs (S) – READ. What does that mean? That means 3 things we can ask for help with to grow big and strong in God. Not getting muscles here but being trim and fit in our relationship with God, not stagnant and flabby. Forgiveness, strength if we face a challenge, and protection from harm. And we all need that, don't we?

Don't have to use exact words – 'how' (and not just 'what'). So we can use it as a guide – which we're going to do for our prayers later, thinking about each phrase.

So before we say the Lord's Prayer a time just to be quiet to think about things we might want to say to God, maybe to say to him how amazing he is, or to offer worries or ask for help.

Hymn 3: 162 Father I place into your hands

(SLIDE) Say Lords Prayer (inside back cover of orange books) – WHAT

Intercessions Prayer – HOW (SLIDES)

Now we have been sat still for quite a while: so before we have the notices let's go back to where we started and remind ourselves that we are God's children, we are part of his family and that is why in prayer as Jesus taught us we can call God our Dad.

Song 4: Father Abraham – getting faster Right arm / Left arm / Right leg / Left leg / Nod your head / Turn around / SIT DOWN!

Notices / Gleanings / Birthdays

Final hymn 5 – 503 O Jesus I have promised

Sending out prayer to say together

Please join in by saying the words: 'Thank you for your love'.

LEADER Our Father in heaven:

ALL: Thank you for your love.

LEADER: You're the strongest, kindest dad we could ever imagine.

ALL: Thank you for your love

LEADER: You give us our life.

ALL: Thank you for your love.

LEADER: You give us families at home and at church.

ALL: Thank you for your love.

LEADER: You give us arms to hug with.

ALL: Thank you for your love.

LEADER: You show us the right way to live.

ALL: Thank you for your love.

LEADER: You love us even when we make mistakes

ALL: Thank you for your love.

LEADER: You love us more than we can possibly imagine.

ALL: Thank you for your love.

LEADER: Our Father in heaven

ALL: Thank you for your love. Amen.