

GREENWOOD-LAUREL PARK UMC CHARGE

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY – “PRAYER”

May 21, 2020 @6:30 p.m.

Text: Matthew 6:9a NIV

⁹ *“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven . . .”*

How should believers pray?

Big Question: Why was the invocation of the Lord’s Prayer—“our Father in heaven”—so revolutionary? What applications can we take from God being our Father in heaven?

Our Father in Heaven

Interpretation Question: What made Christ praying “our Father in heaven” so unique in that day?

Application Question: What is your experience with praying the Lord's Prayer? In what ways have you found it helpful or not helpful?

Applications from God's Fatherhood

Application Question: What should the reality of God being our personal Father teach or remind us of? Why is the understanding of God's fatherhood essential to one's spiritual health?

God's Fatherhood Reminds Us of His Love

Application Question: What types of fears do you struggle with? How does God's fatherhood help you deal with your fears? Why is understanding God's love so important for us?

God's Fatherhood Reminds Us of Our Immediate Access to Him

Application Question: What's the difference between condemnation and conviction? In what ways have you experienced both? In what ways do you feel God is calling you to more often take advantage of your immediate access to him?

God's Fatherhood Reminds Us of Our Security

Application Question: In what ways have you experienced confidence and security because of your relationship with your heavenly Father? In what ways have you lacked this when distant from the Father?

God's Fatherhood Reminds Us of Our Resources

Application Question: In what ways have you experienced God the Father's faithfulness to meet your needs? Share a story about God's faithfulness.

God's Fatherhood Reminds Us of Our Worth

Application Question: In what ways does Satan continually assault the self-worth of people, including believers? How can we know our worth in Christ in order to battle negative self-images or negative comments from others?

God's Fatherhood Reminds Us of Our Need to Obey

Application Question: How can believers daily discern God's will, so they can obey it? In what way(s) has God been recently calling you to obedience?

God's Fatherhood Reminds Us of God's Discipline

Application Question: Why is it so important to see God as controlling all trials, including ones seemingly caused by evil people or the devil? What happens if we don't recognize his sovereignty over hardships?

God's Fatherhood Reminds Us of Our Christian Familial Relationships

Application Question: How can we practice the reality of being a family within the church? Give practical examples. How is God calling you to better practice the family-hood of all believers?

God's Fatherhood Reminds Us of God's Power and Sovereignty

Application Question: In what ways have you seen or experienced how the contemporary church has focused on God's immanency and lost his transcendency? Why has this happened? How can the church (and us individually) practice both God's immanency and transcendency? What is the difference between a healthy fear of God, which God commands, and an unhealthy one?

Brief Thoughts on Parenting

Application Question: How is/was your relationship with your earthly father? Can/could you approach him at any time and talk to him about anything? How does/did your relationship with your earthly father affect your relationship with your heavenly Father? How should those with negative earthly father experiences overcome those memories so they don't negatively affect their relationship with their heavenly Father? What are some other ways that parents can mimic the heavenly Father in their parenting?

Conclusion

Application Question: When you think of God as a Father, what aspect of his fatherhood stands out to you most? What aspect of God's fatherhood do you most want to grow in your understanding of?
