

GOD IS THE GOAL OF PRAYER

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: I AM GROWING
SERIES: GOD IS THE TREASURE - I AM BANKRUPT

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS THE GOAL OF PRAYER

Mark 10:35-45; Philippians 3:3-13; Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1:26-31; Galatians 3:28

BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 6:9

"Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name."

BIG IDEAS

- The priority of prayer is meant to be a desire for God's presence over a desire for His provision.
- Prayer is meant to be a daily realigning of our lives to God's purposes.
- Prayer for God's provision is meant to be the overflow of a desire to live a life that brings glory to Him.

BIBLE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 6:9-15

TRANSFORM - I AM GROWING

The Transform Year is an exploration of what it means to become a "new creation" in Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:17) In order for this to happen, we must first find our identity in Him. Many of us live in a consistent state of identity crises. We wrestle with questions like who am I, where do I belong, why do I exist? The answer to these questions is found in Jesus. Our prayer for this semester is that like the Apostle Paul we would be able to say, "I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Life, joy, wisdom, and purpose are only found in our treasure, Jesus
- Apart from Jesus we are personally, relationally, and spiritually bankrupt
- The Christian life is about growth not arrival.



Every student should feel...

- Encouraged that Jesus is the treasure our hearts desire
- The depth of their personal and spiritual bankruptcy
- Emboldened to live for God's kingdom alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read the Sermon on the Mount
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week
- Begin practicing some of the basic spiritual disciplines



Every student should want to...

- See the Beatitudes become their attitudes
- Put sin to death and live for God's kingdom
- Pursue Jesus by embracing and practicing spiritual disciplines

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.

BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 6:9

"Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name."

The focus of a believer's prayer is God.

"Our Father In Heaven..."

- In Jesus' teaching on prayer, He teaches that the focus of prayer is God. The focus of our prayers shouldn't be ourselves, our needs, or our desires. Though these things are things we can bring to God in prayer, our main focus should be on God who is our heavenly Father. Prayer is the way we talk with God and reveals a desire to know God because of our relationship with Him.

The purpose of a believer's prayer is communing with God.

"Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven..."

- Prayer is a believer's way to interact with God in an intimate and personal way. We can approach God's throne with confidence because of the salvation Jesus provides to us. Our reconciliation to God not only changes our eternity, but it places us in a right relationship with Him in the present. We can talk with God, not just to Him. Prayer is a way of dwelling in God's presence.
- Jesus' example of how to pray shows us the nature of our relationship with God as believers. When we pray, we pray to Our Father in heaven. Our prayers are not just repetitious words and phrases to a god we hardly know. The purpose of our prayer is to interact with our Heavenly Father in an intimate and personal way.

A result of a believer's prayer is seeking God's glory.

"hallowed be your name."

- The chief end, or purpose of man is to enjoy God forever and bring Him glory. The whole of Scripture teaches us that all that we do should be done for God's glory. Jesus teaches this truth in His example prayer when He prays, "hallowed be your name." This phrase means that believers are asking for God to be known, seen, and treated as the holy and righteous God He is. A "hallowed name" is one that is said in awe and with great reverence.
- As a believer prays seeking God's presence, he or she will seek God's glory. Jesus showed that our hearts should be for God and His glory in our prayers. It's easy to pray asking for the things we need or want and we never seek God's glory or just seek His presence. Jesus taught a different way of praying that results in man seeking God's glory and receiving the joy of God's presence.

BIG IDEA #1: THE PRIORITY OF PRAYER IS MEANT TO BE A DESIRE FOR GOD'S PRESENCE OVER A DESIRE FOR HIS PROVISION.¹**[THIS]**

Prayer is not just a way for us to bring God a list of our needs and wants. In Matthew 6:9-15, Jesus shows that prayer is so much more than that. Jesus teaches that when we pray, we call God Our Father. We become God's children and fellow heirs with Jesus when we have saving faith. This indicates a position change for us because we are no longer separated from God, but we are reconciled to Him. We can know God intimately. As we enter into prayer with God, the purpose is meant to be know Him and be known by Him. Our desire should be to sit in the presence of our Heavenly Father for the sake of knowing Him more, rather than just bringing Him our desires and needs.

[THEREFORE]

How does viewing God as Father change the focus of your prayers?

Jeremiah 29:12-13 gives us a picture of what it means to seek God to know Him. When we seek God with all of our heart, He allows us to know Him. Psalm 105:4 and 119:2 show us that drawing near to God our Father results in us knowing Him. When we change the purpose of our prayer from asking for things to asking to know God, He gives us Himself.

[THIS]

When we pray to Our Father in heaven, we are acknowledging that He is our sovereign Ruler. God is not like man. His view of life is different than ours because His position is different. The way God sees the world is different than the way we see it. He even sees our lives in a different way because He is the One who created us and sustains us and we are not. We enter into prayer trusting that He is Our Father in heaven and has control over all things. We can seek His presence and rest in the truth that He provides for His children always.

[THEREFORE]

Read Matthew 6:31-33. How does the knowledge that God is Our Father in Heaven change the way you view His provision in your life?

These verses in Matthew teach us that Our Father in Heaven is fully aware of our needs and provides for us faithfully. Matthew 7:11 shows us that God provides for us so much more so than even earthly fathers provide for their children. Philippians 4:19 teaches us that the God of Heaven supplies the needs of His children because of the riches of Jesus.

[THIS]

In Matthew 6:9b when Jesus taught His people to pray "hallowed be your name", He was teaching them to seek God's holiness and glory above all else. God is holy and He commands us to be holy like He is holy. Our prayers should reflect our understanding and pursuit of God's holiness. We should pray for Him to be known in the world for who He is—the one true God.

[THEREFORE]

What hinders you from seeing and pursuing God's holiness and praying that He is known?

Psalm 10:4 shows us that our pride keeps us from seeking God. Our pride also keeps us from asking that God be known in the world. Philippians 2:21 shows us that seeking our own interests hinders us from seeking the will and purpose of God.

1. Matthew 6:9: Jesus teaches us to pray seeking God's glory and His presence more than His provision.

BIG IDEA #2: PRAYER IS MEANT TO BE A DAILY REALIGNING OF OUR LIVES TO GOD'S PURPOSES.²

[THIS]

In Matthew 6:9-10, we see that prayer is seeking God's kingdom on earth when Jesus says, "Your kingdom come". Praying for God's kingdom to come is a prayer for the Gospel to advance in the world. Our hearts do not naturally seek God's kingdom, so when we pray for His kingdom to come, our hearts are being aligned with God's. This alignment should be a daily practice because prayer is a vital part of our growth spiritually and our sanctification. Seeking God's kingdom on this earth means a prayer life that seeks the advancement of the Gospel. This also means seeking gospel opportunities in our daily lives.

[THEREFORE]

How does praying for God's kingdom to come lead you to a greater awareness of gospel opportunities in your life?

In Matthew 9:37-38, we see the command to pray to the Lord of the harvest for workers to go out. As we seek God's kingdom, our hearts will be aligned with His and we will pray for fellow laborers to share the gospel. We will also share the gospel ourselves because we will see lost people as God sees them.

How do we align our heart with God's will in our prayers?

1 John 1:9 shows us that part of our spiritual life is confession of our sins. When we do confess our sins, God faithfully forgives us. Psalm 32:5 also shows us that prayer involves a realigning of our hearts with God's through confession of our sin and repentance.

[THIS]

In Matthew 6:9, we see that prayer involves a desire for God's will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven. God's will is the advancement and growth of His kingdom. Our prayers should involve asking God to do His will on earth just as it is done in Heaven. In order for us to even desire this, we must be in right standing with God. Prayer is the way we realign our hearts and desires with God's. When we pray "your will be done", we are saying we submit to God's plans and purposes. We are dying to our own plans and desires and trusting God's greater and better plan.

[THEREFORE]

How can prayer be a means for the Holy Spirit to change our desires more and more to see God's kingdom to come and will to be done on earth?

Romans 12:2 tells us not to be conformed to this world. As we pray for God's will to be done, our minds will be renewed and transformed. Our hearts will be aligned to His will and purposes. Proverbs 3:6 tells us that our paths are made straight when we acknowledge God. This means that in our prayers, we are seeking God's will and purposes and when we do this, our paths are made straight by God.

2. Matthew 6:10: Jesus teaches that we should ask for God's will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

BIG IDEA #3: PRAYER FOR GOD'S PROVISION IS MEANT TO BE THE OVERFLOW OF A DESIRE TO LIVE A LIFE THAT BRINGS GLORY TO HIM.³

[THIS]

Our prayers for God to provide for us should be the result of our desire to bring Him glory. Jesus taught in Matthew 6:11 that we should pray for our daily needs. This implies that our focus should be on the day that we are blessed to live. This also implies that we are not asking for provision to store up wealth and riches that we might bring glory to ourselves, but our prayers for our “daily bread” show that our focus is on God’s will and purpose for each day.

[THEREFORE]

How does praying for our daily bread produce a trust in God’s provision?

Matthew 6:31-32 shows us that God knows what we need and He provides for His children. We do not have to worry about tomorrow because God is in control of all of our days. Psalm 23:1 and 37:25 show us that God is a Father who provides for His children and does not leave them alone or stranded.

[THIS]

As we ask for forgiveness from God for our daily sins, we express an understanding of our own sinfulness. This prayer for God to forgive our debts is a request for a restored fellowship with Him. Because sin hinders our relationship with God, we must ask for His forgiveness to remain in a right relationship with Him. This also helps us forgive others. As we understand how we are forgiven, we will forgive others.

[THEREFORE]

How has your petition for forgiveness challenged you to freely forgive others?

Ephesians 4:32 shows us that our forgiveness of others is tied to our understanding of God’s forgiveness of us. Luke 17:3-4 teaches us that forgiveness of others is vital to our growth and spiritual walk. Additionally, Matthew 18:21-33 shows us that we will forgive others when we understand how much has been forgiven us.

[THIS]

In Matthew 6:13, we see a petition for the Father to deliver us from evil. As we humbly approach the Father in prayer, asking for forgiveness and forgiving others, we will recognize the battle between our flesh nature and new nature. This leads us to pray to our Father to protect us from sin and from Satan, the tempter. We will ask for God’s help in resisting temptation and fleeing sin. We will seek a life that glorifies our Father.

[THEREFORE]

Why is it important to ask the God to “lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one?”

In Genesis 4:5-7, God tells Cain that sin crouches at our door. We must pray to not be led into temptation because we cannot resist sin in our own power. Luke 22:40 also teaches us that we must pray to not give in to temptation.

Read Matthew 6:11-13. How does your prayer to God for protection from temptation reveal your desire to bring Him glory?

1 Corinthians 10:13 shows us that God is available to help us when we are tempted. Ephesians 6:18 also teaches that when we are alert and praying for perseverance and help overcoming temptation, we are seeking to glorify God with our lives.

3. Matthew 6:16-18: God knows our true hearts and He delights in our true worship.