

OCTOBER 6, 2019

“Our Father who is in heaven...”

Look at the special name given to us for God: *Abba*¹. Jesus’s special relationship with the Father is being transmitted to us in his instruction on prayer. He is declaring that we have to ability and opportunity to know the *Father* just as *he knows the Father*. What a precious gift! Furthermore, our *heavenly Father* is not remote or distant. Heaven’s expansive realm collides with our earthly realm continuously. As such, we can experience a taste of God’s heavenly glory in our prayerful communion with him.

- What does the word “Father” mean to you?
- How does our modern world interpret this word (Father)?
- In the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) how does the son display extravagance?
- How does his father display a different type of extravagance?
- In Matthew 3:13-17, how does Jesus illustrate the goodness of the Father?
- How can you explore this relationship with God in new and intimate ways?
- How can our community explore what it means for God to be *OUR Father*?

¹ “Abba” is the Aramaic term for “father”. It is derived from the Hebrew “Ab”, which also means “father”.

MATTHEW 6:9-13 NASV

⁷ “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

⁹ “Pray, then, in this way:

‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

¹⁴ For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

LUKE 11:2-4 NASV

(After the disciples asked Jesus teach them how to pray)

² And He said to them, “When you pray, say:

‘Father, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”