

AS ABOVE SO BELOW

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME, YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE

DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN, GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD, AND FORGIVE

US OUR DEBTS, AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS, AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMP

TATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.

MATTHEW 6:9-13

DISCUSSION GUIDE

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

SPEAKER: Steve Mitchell

DATE: January 4, 2026

TEXT(S): Matthew 6:9-13

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: This resource is designed to help you, or your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. Our goal is to help you better understand and apply B4's teaching.

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Jesus begins the Lord's Prayer by inviting us into a profound relationship with God as "Our Father in heaven." These opening words reveal both intimacy and awe: God is our loving, accessible Father, yet also the holy, sovereign Creator whose reign defines heaven. Jesus teaches us not only to recite this prayer, but to let it shape our hearts, especially in moments of deep need. As we pray, we are drawn into Christ's own relationship with the Father, healed from distorted images of God, and invited to live in reverence, unity, and hope as heaven's goodness is carried into our world.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. When you hear the words "Our Father," what emotions or images come to mind?
2. Growing up, what shaped your understanding of the word "father"?
3. Have you ever found memorized prayers? Was that comforting or limiting, and why?
4. Where do you most often pray: alone, with others, or not much at all, and why?
5. What stood out to you most from this message?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) above. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Why do you think Jesus begins the prayer with "Our Father" instead of "My Father"?
2. What do the first three petitions of the Lord's Prayer reveal about God's priorities?
3. How does "in heaven" shape both intimacy with God and reverence for Him?
4. What does "hallowed be your name" teach us about God's character?
5. In what ways do Moses' request in Exodus 33 and Jesus' prayer connect?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. How does our culture (or yours) typically view authority, and how does that affect our view of God?
2. Why might calling God “Father” feel difficult or even painful for some today?
3. In what ways does familiarity with God risk becoming casual or shallow?
4. How does the idea of heaven as “God’s effective will” challenge common views of heaven?
5. What would it look like for a church to “export the goodness of heaven” into its city?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. How does seeing God as a loving Father affect your sense of identity?
2. Where might God be inviting you to trust Him more deeply this week?
3. Are there areas where you’ve treated God with familiarity instead of reverence?
4. How could praying the Lord’s Prayer reshape your daily conversations with God?
5. What might change in your life if God’s holiness truly impressed your heart?

LIVE IT OUT: *These practical action steps help you apply this message to day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5-10 minutes:*

1. Pray slowly at the start of each day this week, and pray only the first line of the Lord’s Prayer: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” Pause to reflect on God’s intimacy and holiness, how you experience it. Express your gratitude for these perfections
2. Intentionally care for someone in our church or community this week as an expression of reflecting the Father’s heart to others. Pray for the opportunity,

You can find B4’s [Series Resources and a link to 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting here.](#)

