DAYS OF PRAYER

Luke 11:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Now **Jesus was praying** in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, **"Lord, teach us to pray**, as John taught his disciples." ² And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come."

Big Idea

The Lord Jesus prayed often and about everything--victory over Satan, victory over temptation, important decisions, forgiving others and conforming His will to God's will. Therefore, as his disciples, we need to pray like Jesus prayed. When one of His disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he began with three critical components: First, we pray to God as "Father." Our physical posture in prayer doesn't matter, but our spiritual posture should be as one of God's children. We are in a relationship that only applies to those who are adopted into His family. This relationship is a part of the New Covenant ushered in by Jesus' death and resurrection. Because we are in a new family, we pray "our" Father—we are in this together! Second, we pray in a way that honors His name. God answers prayer "for His namesake." By honoring His name we show we respect His authority. We are focused on what is His will, not our own. Third, we pray "your kingdom come" because we understand we are praying to a King. God is in charge of this world and ultimately, we desire that history will come to an end and the Lord Jesus will rule and reign according to God's eternal purpose.

Discussion Questions

- What impacted you most about today's video teaching?
- How would it change your daily walk if you adopted Jesus' practice of "praying over everything?"
- Does addressing God as "Father" help you to pray more freely, or do you struggle because
 of your relationship with your earthly father? (See Matthew 7:11)
- When Pastor Grant says "we are in this together," do you agree? Why or why not? What are some ways we might practice praying together?
- How might praying with a focus on honoring God's name change the way you pray?

Prayer Focus

Focus today on praying to God as your Father. Think of Him as the "world's best father" and share your most intimate desire(s) with Him. Ask Him how you can honor His name in your life today.

Next Step

Begin your prayer journal as Pastor Grant recommended. Ask your Heavenly Father to show you what you can do to help His kingdom come in your life, the life of your family, your circle of influence, and your church.