

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

Luke 1:1-2 (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

How important it is for us to avoid praying selfishly! We pray “our Father” so we can focus on our family, church, cities, country, and others. We understand that God loves us and wants what is best for us, which frees us up to rely on His will, not our own. Even though He is in heaven, He is not far from us and cares about our well-being (Luke 12:22-31). Because He loves us, He has provided a way for us to “plug in” to the spiritual world and has made His power available to us through prayer. The key effective prayer that sees His power acting through us and for us is to ask in His name and for His glory (John 14:13-14). By praying for His kingdom to come, we are praying for His agenda to come to pass, not our own agenda! We have to understand that His kingdom is bigger than any nation and our future depends not on our efforts, but on conforming our lives to His will (1 John 2:17). God wants us to run His plays--in His system--so that His glory is made apparent to the world. When we pray unselfishly, in His name and for His glory, we can expect to see God-sized results (James 5:16).

Discussion Questions

- What impacted you most about today’s video teaching?
- In Luke 12:22-31, Jesus makes it clear that God cares about our daily needs. How should that truth help you to focus on God’s priorities?
- When you pray, do you sense God is near you or do you picture Him as being far away? How did today’s lesson help you to draw nearer to God as your “Father?”
- When Pastor Grant said, “America may not last,” was that a shocking thought? How might that realization change the way you pray?
- What are some ways that our wills can conflict with God’s will for our lives?

Prayer Focus

As you pray today, ask God reveal anything that is keeping you from enjoying a close relationship with Him. Focus on yielding to His agenda and make a list of family, friends, co-workers, and institutions that you feel Him leading you to pray for consistently.

Next Step

Ask God to show you some things that have been important to your agenda that are not on His agenda. Add the prayer needs He put on your mind to your prayer journal and practice praying more for them than yourself. Keep a record of the prayers He has answered.