



Prayer is one of the great mysteries of life. It is where our material world and the kingdom of God intersect. It is the place where we are confronted with our own limitations and the unlimited power and love of God. Prayer can also raise questions. Why should I pray if God already knows what I am going to say? Why pray if I don't think anything will change? Even the disciples

asked Jesus, "Teach us to pray?" Together, let us explore the difference prayer can make.

Matthew Overview:

Author and Date: Written by Matthew (Levi the tax collector) whom Jesus called to follow him (Matthew 9:9; Mark 2:14). Written 55-65 AD.

First readers and their location: There is no specific audience mentioned but the content of Matthew points to a Christian audience made up of primarily Jewish people.

Why was it written?: Matthew gives great attention to both the background of Jesus and how he fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies of a promised Messiah. Kingdom is a major theme in the book.

Open-up

Growing up, who was it the imposed their will on you? What response did you give to that will being imposed?



Into the Bible

Read: Matthew 6:10; Isaiah 40:3-11, Mark 1:9-15,
Matthew 13:44-52 one at a time and build a definition of

God's Kingdom.

What do you think it means to pray, "Your kingdom come?" What does it look like? Give some examples?

From Romans 12:2 and Ephesians 1:5, 9 and 11: How does it describe **what God's will is for us?**



Into my life

Ask the question, "What does this look like in my life?"

What challenges you about God "reigning" in your life? Why?

What do you think God is asking you to let go of so that his kingdom can show up in your life?

Why do you think Followers of Jesus have such a difficult time with not knowing God's specific will for them rather than his revealed will in Scripture? What challenges do you have personally?

How will you be different today because of what you just read?

Other Application Questions:

Is there something to worship or thank God for?

Is there a promise to claim or a truth to believe?

Is there something I am convicted about that I need to work on?

Is there something or someone I need to pray for this week? (Be specific)

Is there any relationship I need to work on?



Into the World

Ask, "what does this look like in my day to day life?"

As an exercise spend time praying your kingdom come, your will be done. Spend a two minutes in silence being aware that God is present. Pray this prayer and any thoughts that come to mind. Spend another two minutes in silence.

Prayer List:

My challenge for this week:

More Resources for personal and group use:

<https://www.precept.org/know-gods-word/>

A little about Westwood Church...

We believe that God changes lives!

That motivates us to...

Bring Jesus into Life

By...

...becoming an increasingly healthy, vibrant and effective witness for Jesus in Prince George and around the world!

We do this by engaging in three things:



GATHER

Sunday mornings to celebrate and learn about God



GROUPS

Weekly meetings that go deeper in relationships with each other and God



GO

Serving in the church and community to present Jesus to the world