

Our Father > Matthew 6:9

6:9a *How we start a prayer.* In response to a question from his disciples, Jesus teaches them how to pray – not just *what* to pray, but the pattern for all faithful prayer. These are the “categories” of what we should pray about and how we should rightly and humbly approach our God.

6:9b *Who we pray to.* Our prayers are directed not to a God who is far away or uncaring, but instead to one whom Jesus has given every Christian a relationship with. We can rightly call upon him as our “Father” – and what a privilege that is!

6:9c *What we pray for.* Our praying is not meant to be you and I coming up with things that we hope God cares about and will respond to. Instead, we start by praying for what matters most: that God’s glory, his fame, his name would be magnified and held high in our own lives and through our own words, witness, and actions.

Background: The Lord’s Prayer gives us a pattern for faithful praying; it teaches us to pray in a way that honors God.

The Point: We, first, pray to our Father and for his glory.

Head: Know that if you are in Christ, you can call upon the God who cares for you, the God who is your Heavenly Father.

Heart: Believe that God’s glory is the most important thing in life; magnifying him is what you were made to do.

Hands: Does the way you pray focus on the Lord rather than yourself? If not, what needs to change in your “pattern”?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
