

**Matthew 6: 9-14****The Lord's Prayer****Warm Up**

This was a big debate when I was a teenager:

Is the Lord's prayer meant to be recited or is it just an outline to guide us when we pray?

**Background and context**

Jesus had been teaching about how not to pray, like the hypocrites. Now He outlines how we should pray. The prayer has a clear structure, divided into two parts. Firstly, the Father, His name, His Kingdom and His will. Then secondly, it is about us. Give us, forgive us, lead us and deliver us. It is a powerful prayer with forgiveness and trust at its heart.

**Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity**

**READ Matthew 6:9-14.** What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. How would you describe the 'Father in heaven'?
2. What do you think it means for the Father's name to be 'hallowed'?
3. What does God's kingdom look like? Is it here now? When will it arrive in completeness?
4. What does the Father's will look like in our lives today?
5. How can we be sure we are accomplishing the Father's will?
6. **Read 11-13.** In what ways are we to trust God in our daily lives?
7. **Read v14-15.** Forgiveness is a core teaching from Jesus. Why is it we find it so challenging?
8. Jesus suffered on the cross, bearing the sin of the whole of humanity. He felt it personally as he was crucified. What are the worst sins you can think of? What must it have been like for Jesus to bear these on Himself and be isolated from God in doing so? Does this help you understand the depth of His love?
9. Does understanding that Jesus was able to forgive us, help us to forgive others? Why?

**Discipleship and Application**

10. The prayer calls on us to trust God in times of need; for our provisions, for protection from Satan and temptation. How easy is it to do this? Why?
11. What can we do to make this prayer real every day in our Christian walk?

**Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.**

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.