

The Prayer of the Kingdom

Read: Matthew 6:9-15; James 1:13.

1. Can you recite the Lord's Prayer by heart? When / where did you learn it? When did you first recognise the revolutionary and radical nature of this prayer?
2. Steve said that this prayer is all encompassing. What do you think he meant?
3. "Our Father in heaven" is more than just a formal introduction. What does it tell us about the kingdom? (*try placing the emphasis on different words!*)
4. What does it mean to "hallow God's name"? Is this your passion?
5. Jesus taught the disciples to pray "Your kingdom come and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" yet many evangelical Christians seem to be more fixated on "mansions in glory" (escaping from this world rather than bringing heavenly transformation to this world). Why do you think this is so? Is it theology, tradition, or something else?
6. Steve suggested that we need humility in praying this prayer? Why might that be so? (*look again at some of the petitions in this prayer*)
7. 'Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors' (v12). Why is this such an important petition? Why did Jesus choose to link our forgiveness by God with the way in which we forgive other people? (*see also v14-15*)
8. What do you make of the theology of Donald Trump, who said: "Why do I have to repent or ask for forgiveness, if I am not making mistakes?"?
9. Does James 1:13 contradict Jesus' words 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one' (v13)?
10. Invite group members to write out the Lord's Prayer in their own words (have pens and paper ready).