

**“Our Father in Heaven”:**  
*Jesus’s Pattern for Prayer*  
*Sermon Notes*

➤ **When you pray, keep your eyes on the prize: your heavenly Father**

Jesus wants you to forsake...

1. prestige (5-6)
2. mechanical formulas (7-8)

Instead, call on God as...

1. King (9-10)
2. Father (11-15)

**Next Sunday: Matthew 22:36-46 – “Father, Not as I Will”:**  
*Jesus & Surrendering to a Sovereign God in Prayer*

## Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of July 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

We're going to adapt the general COMA method of studying the Bible to our text, Matthew 6:5-15. The COMA method comes from Pastor David Helm in the book *One-to-One Bible Reading*.

### Introduction

*What models of prayer are you familiar with? (e.g. ACTS=Adoration Confession Thanksgiving Supplication)*

*In what ways have you observed public prayer that is weird or awkward or irreligious?*

### Context

*Do we learn anything about Jesus himself from his teaching on prayer?*

*In Matthew 6:1-18, what does Jesus teach about Jewish piety (i.e. almsgiving, praying, fasting)?*

### Observation

*What ideas/themes are repeated? What are the key words and/or themes? Does Jesus draw on any ideas with OT roots?*

*Structure the flow of Jesus' teaching (hint: you will probably come up with either 3 or 4 sections). What are the key connecting words (e.g. for, therefore, but, because, so that, that, etc.) that indicate the logical flow of the passage?*

### Meaning

*Jesus' teaching on prayer here could be misunderstood to reject certain methods of prayer, such as (1) praying while standing, (2) public prayer, (3) extended prayer, or (4) repeated prayer. How do the following Scripture texts help us think through misunderstandings:*

- 1. What postures are seen in the prayers of Num 16:22, 2 Chron 6:13, 2 Sam 7:18 and 1 Sam 1:26?*
- 2. Where are people praying in Matthew 18:19-20; Acts 1:24; 3:1; 4:24-30?*
- 3. How long did Jesus pray in Luke 6:12?*
- 4. How many times did Jesus pray in the garden (Matthew 26:44)? What did Jesus teach about the widow (Luke 18:1)? What about Matthew 7:7-11?*

*What clues help us to understand what Jesus rejected, with regards to why and how we pray (consider as separate sections verses 5-6 and verses 7-8)? Instead, how does Jesus model for us to pray?*

*How does this part of the Sermon on the Mount relate to other parts of the sermon (Mt 5-7)?  
Hint: what words, phrases or ideas are repeated elsewhere (e.g. God as Father, reward, kingdom)?*

*How does this passage link to Jesus? What do we learn about God?*

*How would you summarize the main point in one sentence?*

### **Application**

*How does Matthew 6:5-15 confirm or challenge your beliefs, desires and actions?*

*Because of Jesus' teaching, what would you like the Spirit's help to change in your life? How will you integrate this change into your life this coming week?*