

Learning to Pray with Jesus: Hallowed Be Thy Name

Matthew 6:5-13, Luke 9:28-36 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 27 February 2022

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What is your most valued or cherished possession in your home? What makes it special to you?

Worship: [Psalm 50](#) (Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?)

Sermon Summary for [Matt 6:5-13](#), [Luke 9:28-36](#) (Read the passage aloud before reading the sermon summary.)

All prayer flows from the wonder that God is our Father because of our Savior. Jesus gave His life so we could be adopted into the family of God and begin to become more and more like Him. All His heavenly goodness, God shares with His children. All His heavenly wisdom – combined with His love and care – is there to answer what we bring to Him in prayer. Our Father knows all these things about us, but He wants to connect with us relationally through prayer. He wants us to share our needs and hurts and longings, just as parents do with their children. Praying relationally like this allows Him to experience us and for us to experience Him; it's why our prayers can be a joy to us and a delight to Him.

Jesus – who loved communing with His Father – provides some categories for how we should come to God as His children. And the first is: **Hallowed be thy name**. To pray, “hallowed be thy name” is to pray for God to be honored and praised as holy and majestic. Think about Jesus’ clothes and face shining with a brightness and brilliance beyond comparison on the mountain of Transfiguration. Prayers of “hallowed be thy name” ask God to reveal this glory to all of creation.

“Hallowed be thy name” prayers celebrate what God has already done to display His splendor in His great works of creation and redemption ([Ps 34:3](#)). The psalms are a wonderful resource for this. We hallow God’s name when we praise Him for His handiwork in creating and sustaining the cosmos ([Ps 29](#), [Ps 104](#), [Ps 148](#)). We hallow His name as we celebrate His good and gracious care for us ([Ps 8](#)). We hallow His name as we recognize the cross as the glorious center at the heart of creation. And we hallow God’s name as we become more aware and more honest about our need for the cross. Because (as the Westminster Shorter Catechism states), our chief purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. And the way we do that best is by celebrating, reveling in, and worshiping under the cross of Christ.

“Hallowed be Thy name” prayers can be a call for God to demonstrate His splendor. These might be petitions for God to answer our pleas in ways that would glorify His name (just as Moses did as He prayed for God to restore His people for His name’s sake). These can also be prayers for God to hallow His name in and through us as we become people ever more focused on and shaped by the cross. We can also pray like this as we ask for God to honor His name by delivering us from difficulty ([Ps 50](#)). These can even be prayers on a global scale – for the cessation of the pandemic, for wars to cease, and for the rule of tyrants to be at an end. May these become our prayers so that we might more deeply know and love our Father and put our trust in Him ([Ps 9:10](#)).

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

“Hallowed be Thy name” prayers can celebrate what God has already done to display His splendor

- Read [Psalm 50](#) together. In what ways is God’s splendor and majesty portrayed?
- How has God been faithful and gracious in your walk with Him and in your life?
 - How can you hallow God’s name because of this?
- What has this season of prayer been like for you? In what ways has God shown up?
 - In what ways has your heart been moved or impacted?
- Reread [Luke 9:28-36](#). What stands out to you? What connects to our discussion of prayer?

“Hallowed be Thy name” prayers can be a call for God to demonstrate His splendor

- If God knows what we need, why does He draw us near to Him in prayer?
 - Our Father wants to hear our prayers. How does knowing this impact how you approach prayer?
- Lent is an opportunity to take a longer look at the cross. What has Lent been like for you in the past?
 - Often, Lent is about giving something up, but it also can be about taking something on. Which of those directions could be a good exercise for you this season?
 - What could you do during this season to “take a longer look at the cross”?

Prayer

Pray for the situation in Ukraine. Pray for peace. Pray for Christ’s mercies and intervention. For this week’s Prayer Guide for personal or group use, click [HERE](#).

The first Thursday of the Month is a day of Prayer and Fasting for Pacific Crossroads Church. For a short practical guide on how to spend a day in prayer and fasting by Richard Pratt, author of [Pray With Your Eyes Open](#), click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Prayer & Gratitude

Last week, you were encouraged to write a prayer (6-8 sentences) where you focus exclusively on the wonder of our Father in heaven.

This week, contemplate what it means to hallow God’s name in prayer. Through prayer, we have the opportunity to dwell on the wonder of God’s character. As our fascination with His name grows, we desire to more and more hallow His name with our words and actions. Using Scripture as your guide, write a prayer praising God’s magnificent qualities. To learn more about this way of praying see [Pray With Your Eyes Open, Chapter 3: Fascination With God’s Character](#).

If your group wishes to work through the book [Pray With Your Eyes Open by Richard Pratt](#), along with the discussion guide, you can find the link to purchase [HERE](#). Take your time in practicing the exercises in this book; it can serve as a resource for the entire year of our focus on prayer.