

THE LORD'S PRAYER: ABBA'S CHILD

Life Group Questions | Sunday, January 3, 2021

What comes to mind when you talk about prayer? Any stories, images, experiences?

Read Matthew 6:9-13. This week we are focusing on the first two words of the Lord's Prayer: *Our Father*. In the original language the word translated *Father* is *Abba*— a tender word for Father, evoking intimacy. How does this metaphor for God resonate with you?

Read John 1:11-12. Jesus provides a pathway for all to become children of God. God is not just Jesus' Father, not just your Father; God is our Father. How does this reality shape your perspective?

Read Romans 8:15-17a. When we pray *Our Father*, we are reminded who our Dad is, who our family is, and that we already belong. Is this belonging—this security in God's family—challenging for you to embrace? How so or how not?

Do any untrue or incomplete images of God still linger with you as you approach prayer?

Read Matthew 7:7-9. When we pray as God's children we can expect God to hear our prayers and we can expect God will give us good gifts that align with His will for our lives. What good gifts have you received from God this year?

What questions rumble around in you as you think about God's desire to give good gifts and parallel realities of pain, suffering, and disappointment? How do you navigate this paradox?

Pray together. Close with the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen

Register for the Prayer Walk on January 10 at www.newhopepdx.org/events