

**THE BOOK OF LUKE SERIES**  
**STUDY NINETEEN (LUKE 11:2-3)**  
**THE LORD'S PRAYER: PETITIONS FOR GOD (PART TWO)**  
**MAY 25, 2008**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Psalm 103:1, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!"

**INTRODUCTION**

In the first part of our three week series on the Lord's Prayer, we focused on who God the Father is and how we should approach Him in prayer. In this study, we will examine God's holiness, the anticipation we should have concerning the coming of His Kingdom, and our willingness to submit to His will. In both Luke's and Matthew's versions of the prayer, Jesus emphasizes that God the Father's name is to be hallowed, which means holy or held in reverence. Jesus is not telling God something that He does not already know. He is proclaiming to God that He understands how holy His very name is. Jews considered the name Yahweh too sacred to be spoken, and often substituted Adonai (My Great Lord) instead. God is described by several different names throughout the bible. Each name reflects a different characteristic or trait of God. Elohim, for instance, means "The All-Powerful One Creator". It is very important that we recognize the holiness of God's name when we come before Him in prayer, because it focuses our attention on God and not ourselves. It is interesting that the first line of this prayer is, "Father, hallowed be your name." God is personal, approachable, and caring, and at the same time He is holy and magnificent. The next line of this model prayer states, "Your kingdom come." Jesus was instructing His disciples to look forward in anticipation to the time when God will establish His eternal kingdom. As people who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ, we should long for the day when He is enthroned and His rule and reign are established on earth. However, the reality is we mostly focus on fulfilling our own self centered interests and desires. This is why Jesus' next phrase in the Matthew prayer is, "Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." Before we lay out our petitions to God, Jesus is telling us our heart attitude should be "His will be done." By focusing our hearts on desiring God's will be done, we can better consider whether our request conflicts with what we know of His will. Praying for God's will helps us to further develop the intimate and personal relationship that God desires for each of us.

## LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD

1. What three concerns related to God did Jesus pray for first (Luke 11:2; Matthew 6:9-10)? What is the significance of having these petitions placed first in the order of this model prayer?
2. The first full line of the Lord's Prayer is, "Father, hallowed be your name." What is the importance of recognizing that God is both our "Father" and, at the same time, the holy and magnificent creator of the entire universe? What do the following verses reveal to us concerning the holiness and power of God's name (Exodus 3:13-15; Leviticus 22:32; Psalm 9:10)? What does this mean for each of us personally?
3. Jesus spoke often of the kingdom of God. When He instructed us to say "Your kingdom come" in this prayer, Jesus was telling us that we should look forward in great anticipation for His return. What do you picture when you think of God's future kingdom? What does Luke 21:27-28, Romans 14:17 and Revelation 21:1-4 say about the future kingdom of God? How do these descriptions build anticipation in you regarding this kingdom?
4. What did Jesus really mean when He declared "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10)? How is His prayer in Mark 14:35-36 a model for us when our will is conflicting with God's will?



## **GOING DEEPER**

What do the following passages further reveal to you about God's holiness, majesty and glory (Psalm 24:1-4, 96:4-9; Isaiah 6:1-6; Revelation 4:8-11)? After reading these verses, how have they impacted the way you will approach God in prayer?

## **SERVING AND BEING SERVED**

Fasting in the Bible most often refers to going without food or drink for a period of time in order to concentrate on spiritual matters. This is a time when you come before the Lord and focus your heart and mind completely on who He is and the love and grace He has extended to us through Christ. As a small group, choose a day this week and commit to fast and pray before the Lord. This will require you to carve out time in your busy schedules to spend time alone with the Lord to focus on His holiness, majesty and glory. After you have fasted, share with your group how this time with the Lord blessed and changed you.

**SUGGESTED SMALL GROUP STUDY FORMAT**  
**"THE LORD'S PRAYER - PETITIONS TO GOD (PART TWO)"**  
**STUDY NINETEEN - MAY 25, 2008**

CONNECT ..... 25 MINUTES

Time of Fellowship

Opening Prayer

Icebreaker Questions:

1. What does the road sign nearest your home say? Are you sure?
2. Are you more likely to trust until proven wrong, or distrust until a person proves him/herself?

MEMORY VERSE (Memorize and say aloud in your group) .....5 MINUTES

*Psalm 103:1, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless His holy name."*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ..... 35 MINUTES

PRAYER AND PERSONAL SHARING .....30 MINUTES

1. As a small group, commit to a time of fasting and prayer where you go before the Lord and recognize His holiness, majesty and glory.
2. Continue to pray for the leadership at RCC as they seek direction and guidance from the Lord regarding the future of the church.
3. Pray for the personal needs of one another in your small group.