

Lenten Study - The Lord's Prayer
Session 6 – 4/13/2022
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, POWER, AND GLORY

SESSION GOALS

Through this session's Bible readings, discussion, reflection, and prayer, participants will:

- Explore the place and power of praising God in our prayer by examining King David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29.
- Compare and contrast the disciples' and Jesus' understandings of kingdom, power, and glory in Luke 22:24-30.
- Identify and discuss practical implications of the doxology that ends the Lord's Prayer.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

1 Chronicles 29:10-19

¹⁰Then David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly; David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever and ever. ¹¹Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹²Riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name.

¹⁴"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. ¹⁶O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. ¹⁷I know, my God, that you search the heart, and take pleasure in uprightness; in the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. ¹⁸O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our ancestors, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. ¹⁹Grant to my son Solomon that with single mind he may keep your commandments, your decrees, and your statutes, performing all of them, and that he may build the temple[Ⓜ] for which I have made provision." New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Luke 22:24-30

²⁴A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest.

²⁵But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

²⁸"You are those who have stood by me in my trials; ²⁹and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, ³⁰so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (NRSV)

OPENING THE SESSION

Welcome

Spontaneous Expressions of Praise

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, God of Israel and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, forever and always. Again send your Spirit to teach and train us in prayer, and indeed to pray for us, that we may more fully offer ourselves to you, for the sake of him who offered himself for us and the world, our Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.

WATCH *THE LORD'S PRAYER* VIDEO – SESSION 6

DISCUSSING KING DAVID'S DOXOLOGY

dox·ol·o·gy (/däk'säləjē/)

noun

noun: **doxology**; plural noun: **doxologies**

a liturgical formula of praise to God.

Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-19

Discuss:

- David's prayer begins with extensive praise of God (verses 10-13) and ends with petitions (verses 18-19). How do these positions and proportions of praise and petition compare to your own prayers? To your congregation?
- What reasons does David mention for praising God? Which, if any, of these reasons resonates most strongly with you, and why?
- How does David's' praise of God present a clear picture of his relationship to God (verses 11-12)? The whole people's relationship to God (verses 14-15)? When, if ever, has your own expression of praise clarified your relationship to God?
- David stresses the importance of honesty before God (verse 17). How do you keep yourself honest before God in your prayers?

GOD'S IS THE KINGDOM, POWER, AND GLORY

“Once more,” writes Hamilton, “when we come to the doxology to the Lord’s Prayer, we are choosing Thy and Thine instead of my and mine.”

Read together Luke 22:24-30.

Discuss:

- What does the disciples’ argument reveal they think about the concepts of kingdom, power, and glory? What does Jesus’ response show he thinks?
- Throughout his life and ministry, how was Jesus among his disciples and other people as “one who serves” (verse 27)?
- What is the connection between sharing in Jesus’ trials and receiving “royal power” (verse 29)? How can and do Christians today share in Jesus’ trials? Does Jesus’ promise to his first followers apply also to his followers today? Why or why not?
- Hamilton writes “when we lose our lives for God’s sake, when we lay down our crowns, when we stop craving power, and when we give God the glory instead of seeking it for ourselves, we live large, magnanimous lives.” Who are some people you know or know of who live or lived such lives?
- Hamilton calls the doxology in the Lord’s Prayer “a pledge of our allegiance to God’s kingdom, power, and glory.” How do Christians determine whether and when their allegiance to other powers is in conflict with their allegiance to God?
- Hamilton states that pledging our allegiance to God means “we must ask probing questions of our nation and of our leaders.” What policies, laws, and positions do you think Christians in America need to be asking probing questions about, and why?
- “Each of us also has power,” writes Hamilton. What is a specific area of your life in which you have power? How can and will you use this power “to impact others’ lives and the world around us” for God?
- Hamilton says the doxology in the Lord’s Prayer helps us counter “the natural tendency in our lives to seek glory for ourselves.” How much or how little do you feel this tendency, and why? Under what conditions, if any, is it acceptable for Christians to “want the credit for the good things we do”? How do we keep our prayer for God’s glory from becoming a justification for denying other people the recognition and respect they deserve?

CLOSING THE SESSION

Consider, as we finish our Lord’s Prayer study, one specific way you can use your power to glorify God.

Closing Hymn

verse 1

“To God Be the Glory”

Close with *The Lord’s Prayer*.