

Marinating in God's Word: Luke 11:1-4

At the request of his disciples, Jesus approaches the topic of prayer. As he teaches them what we now call, "The Lord's Prayer," he invites them to consider God's care in some extremely unique and marvelous ways. After 2,000 years of recitation, this text begs us to ask: do we still find this prayer marvelous? Let us be open this week to allowing the Spirit of God to breathe life and intimacy back into the Lord's Prayer.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

1. Jesus begins with asking us to pray to the "Father." What do you think his intentions were to approach God as "Father?" Right after that Jesus balances the statement of "Father" with "hallowed be your name." How do we work out approaching God as both Father and as holy?
2. In short, how would you define the Kingdom of God? Is it purely eschatological or is there a present expression? Does it call us to change our hearts and minds on what is important? With these thoughts in mind, what is the impact of praying the line: "Your kingdom come?"
3. It's quite remarkable that Jesus could have suggested any number of personal petitions to offer the Father, but He gives these three: 1. Give us each day our daily bread; 2. forgive us our sins, as we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us; 3. lead us not into temptation. Why do you think Jesus choose these three? Of them, which are easier or more difficult for you as a disciple to earnestly pray?
4. What is new for you in the Lord's Prayer based on your time and discussion together?