

Small Group notes – 2 Sept 2018

Welcome

Ask the group to share memories of their earthly father, strengths and weakness? Be sensitive to those in your group. No earthly father is perfect, however, we can see some glimpses of what a perfect father might be like. ...List some qualities and characteristics of a perfect father.

Word – The Lord's Prayer – 'Our Father in Heaven' - Matthew 6:9:13

Jesus gives us a short, simple and significant model of prayer. There are six petitions and these divide into two sections. One to three focuses on God's name, kingdom and will. Four to six focuses on our daily bread, our sin and our deliverance. We are guided to direct our prayers to God first, and his kingdom and thereafter to our needs. This is a pattern we are given to pray.

David Pawson - *When we pray the Lord's Prayer we bring the whole of life in prayer to God. Our present (give us our daily bread) our past (Forgive us our sins) and our future (deliver us from evil)*

Our Father – Matt 6:9

The person to whom we pray to is 'Our Father'. The word Jesus uses in the Aramaic is 'Abba' and when translated into English it means dad, daddy.

In Heaven – Matt 6:9

The Bible describes the word heaven in two ways – the earth's atmosphere, the rain, snow and dew that all come from heaven, and also a place prepared for God's children. The prayer says that Our Father is a heavenly father. Does this mean God is in the earth's atmosphere? Or is he waiting in a certain place for us?

God is Spirit, and He is able to be present anywhere and everywhere. He is omnipresent. The word used for heaven in this context is derived from the old Anglo-Saxon word heaven, which means to be 'lifted up'. In this context of the prayer, we see a picture of our Heavenly Father lifted up, He is the exalted one.

Questions

- Do you have a particular model, pattern of regular prayer?
- What experiences have you had in using the Lord's Prayer? Was it helpful or unhelpful?
- Why did Jesus begin the prayer with Our Father?
- Is God the Father of all people or only Christians?
- How do you feel about calling God Daddy?
- How do our personal experiences of earthly fathers affect our prayer life?
- Why should we refer to heaven in our prayers?
- Why should we think of heaven in terms of an elevation rather than a location?
- How can we reconcile God's greatness with our smallness?

Worship & Prayer

Read the Lord's Prayer together slowly. Spend time at each petition in prayer and praise.

Reminders

Sat 15 Sept – 10.30am – 12 Meet @NMBC - Following & fishing

Sat 22 Sept – 7.30pm - Kelle Bryan testimony evening – 2-course meal tickets £5

Sun 23 Sept – Gift Day for the life and ministry of NMBC

Mon 1 Oct – Alpha Course starts