

Study notes, Sunday 9th September 2018
The Lord's Prayer – Honouring God's name

Welcome/starter questions

- Do you know the meaning of your name? Do you think it is a good match for you?!
- On what basis did you choose any names you have given to others?

Worship

- Share and meditate on the different names of God. Are any particularly poignant / important for you?
- Praise God for who he is!

Word: The Lord's Prayer – Honouring God's name

God's name... (Exodus 3:1-15)

- God's name ...is holy – It therefore deserves respect, reverence, healthy fear. God is our "Holy Father" as well as "Abba Father".
- God's name...reveals his nature – His identity is revealed by his words and actions. "I am" was the deliverer of Israel; Jesus is our deliverer. God is dependable, unchanging, eternal.

Honouring God's name... (Lessons from the life of Moses)

- Although there is nothing we do can make God's name any holier, he does call us to help communicate his name and nature to others.
- We should seek to honour God's name...
 - ❖ Personally – approach Him respectfully, spend time with him regularly, respond to Him obediently.
 - ❖ Publicly – stand for Him collectively, speak of Him clearly, journey with Him faithfully.

Conclusion...

- Jesus is our supreme example in honouring God's name. (Hebrews 3:1-3).
- Jesus calls us to follow him, to live our lives for him and to honour his name.
- 1 Peter 1:15-16 - Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Possible discussion questions (choose a few to focus on perhaps)

- Do you agree that it is important to approach God as "Holy Father" as well as "Abba Father"? Do you tend to focus on one of these aspects of God's character more than the other?
- Can you share any illustrations (Biblical or personal) of God's nature being evident in his name?
- Is the petition "Hallowed be your name", a request for us to make to God, or a statement of commitment on our part?
- Is there a distinction between honouring God's **name** and honouring God in general?
- Share any ideas that you have, or already implement, for seeking to honour God's name in private – no pious boasting, just some concrete suggestions! ☺
- Are there any "public" areas that you find challenging in terms of honouring God's name – either generally, or any specific situation? Seek to encourage one another and pray into these areas.
- Should Christians always put aside doctrinal differences in order to stand together collectively for God in the public sphere?
- Are there any areas where we need to exercise caution / particular sensitivity in terms of expressing our faith in public?
- Share any one particular thing that God may have put on your heart over this past year or so which could help encourage and build faith in others.
- How can we avoid "beating ourselves up" if we find ourselves feeling that we fail to honour God's name, either privately or publicly?
- What does it practically mean for us "to be holy" in our context, without coming across as "holier-than-thou"?

Prayer and witness (focus on a few)

- Pray for each other around the elements of your discussion and specifically for any action you think God may be asking you to take at the moment...
- Pray that we, as a church, may be honouring to God's name both as we meet together to worship and as we represent him out in the community...
- Pray for the Following and Fishing Outreach this coming Saturday, 15th September (see bulletin) and for Who Let the Dads Out? (under the new leadership of Andrew Holding) meeting the same day.
- Pray for children and young people settling into new schools/classes, Emily Fuller in her BMS GAP year training, young adults starting out at university or in the world of work.