

*The Lord's Prayer: A Disciple's Compass*

**OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN**

By: Pastor Ben Banner

*Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)*

**Series Big Idea:**

The Lord's Prayer is a daily compass, pointing not to a place we are going, but to a person we are becoming.

**Sermon Big Idea:**

If we want to BE like Jesus, we have to SEE like Jesus.

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**1. FATHER**

Learning to SEE God as Father: God's Fatherhood is a disciple's true North.

If our understanding about God ever contradicts the idea that He is a good Father, we are, without a doubt, misunderstanding Him.

**Read**

Matthew 6:9-13 (slowly) / Romans 8:15 / John 14:9

*"The writers of the Old Testament only referred to God as Father fourteen times in all thirty-nine books — and always in reference to the nation, never individuals. But Jesus — the One who reveals God to us perfectly — addressed Him only as Father. He never used any other term, except when quoting Psalm 22 on the cross. No one in Israel's history had ever spoken or prayed like Jesus. No one!"*  
(PTWC, paraphrased)

**Reflect**

- What images or ideas about God do you usually carry with you into prayer?
- How does seeing God as Father change how you relate to Him?
- What difference does it make to start with Father first — rather than Judge, King, or Creator?

**Respond**

- This week, begin each prayer by saying slowly: "Father...my good and loving Father."
- Ask the Spirit to help you receive God's love as His child.

**Pray**

- *"Heavenly Father, thank You for adopting me as Your child. Help me to see You more and more as the deeply loving Father You are. Amen."*

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**2. OUR**

The Lord's Prayer is not MY compass, but OURS.

Learning to SEE each other as siblings: If God is Father of all, we are siblings of all.

**Read**

- Ephesians 4:6 / Romans 8:29 / 2 Corinthians 5:18

**Reflect**

- Who in your life is hardest for you to think of as a *sibling* in God's family?
- How might remembering that God is *their* Father too affect your attitude and actions toward them?

- What would it mean for you to engage in a *ministry of reconciliation* this week?

**Respond**

- Choose one relationship in which you can pursue reconciliation, this week (i.e. offering kindness, patience, sacrificial love, or forgiveness).
- Pray for someone you find frustrating, asking God to help you see them as He does.

**Pray**

- *"OUR Father, help me see others as my brothers and sisters, and empower me to be Your faithful (and perhaps even joyful) minister of reconciliation, this week. Amen."*

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**3. HEAVEN**

Learning to SEE from God's perspective and admitting that we can't: God always sees MORE & BEFORE.

**Read:**

- Proverbs 3:5-6 / Isaiah 55 (especially vv. 8+9)

**Reflect**

- When have you looked back and realized God saw more than you could see in the moment?
- In what ways do you still try to lean on your own limited perspective?
- How does remembering that God sees "more and before" build your trust? And how might it change your prayer life?

**Respond**

- Each morning this week, pause to acknowledge God's greater perspective.
- When facing uncertainty, pray: *"Father in heaven, I trust that You see more and before, so help me follow Your lead."*

**Pray**

- *"Father in Heaven, help me to trust and obey you wholeheartedly. Align my head and heart with Your will and keep me steady on Your path. Amen."*

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**Follow Through**

- What was the most impactful part of this study?
- What is one way you could apply God's Word to your life, this week? (i.e. ...pursue becoming more like your rabbi, Jesus.)

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**For the Week Ahead****Read:**

- Matthew 6:9-13 daily, aloud (KJV, the version we recite at church).

**Reflect:**

- Which word or phrase stands out each day? Keep a short journal.

**Respond:**

- Pray the prayer slowly, phrase by phrase, inviting God to direct your thoughts, words, and actions, like a compass.