



# KINGDOM PRAYER

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## Week 1 - Personal Devotional

*"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." – Matthew 6:9-13*

### *Visiting with God*

How often do you visit with God?

It might seem like an odd question, since you can't really invite God over for Coke and tacos. But you can invite Him *in* with prayer. Into your home, into your daily life, into a quiet place to talk.

Too often, we treat God like the tolerable neighbor across the street. Every day or two, we exchange a few polite but shallow words in passing, never delving into deep conversation or getting personal. And our relationship with that neighbor never grows, because we don't take the time to share personal and important moments with them.

It's the same with God. For our relationship with God to grow, we need to spend time with Him, we need to join our hearts with His in prayer. If you're not sure how to pray deep prayers, use Matthew 6:9-13 as a template: greet God in your own way, praise Him, acknowledge His will on this earth, express your needs, seek forgiveness and the strength to forgive, ask for guidance in your particular circumstances and protection from the pressures and temptations of the world.

### *Self-Reflection*

- How often do you pray?
- When you pray, do you treat God like the tolerable neighbor, or do you regularly invite Him in for deep, heartfelt conversations?
- Are there distractions or priorities that take precedence over time with God?
- Do you long for a deeper relationship with God, or are you satisfied?

### *Prayer*

Heavenly Father, I know that your desire is for all of your children to draw close to you. Lord, create in me a longing for you. Help me to set aside distractions and focus on you. Open my heart and teach me to pray deeper so that I can grow closer to you and see your power and grace unfold in my life and in the world around me.

*(Written by Crystal Craig)*

