

The Father's Forgiveness

Main Scripture: Matthew 6:9-13

Shape Teaching:

- 1. Read Matthew 6:9-13. Jesus gave us a framework for prayer that guides us beyond our habitual prayers into a surrendered, listening, and holistic way of conversing with the Father. It allows for talking and listening.
- 2. The Father's Character (6:9): Jesus shows us that we can interact with God in an intimate manner. He is our Father, our "Abba" Daddy. And, there is an element of respect as well. He is hallowed, holy, honored. He is both our Father and our King. As you listen to Him, you get to ask Him to remind you of His character.
- 3. The Father's Kingdom (6:10): He is in charge. When we surrender to God as Savior of our lies, we recognize that He is Lord and that we want His Kingdom purposes for the things that we are praying about. As you listen to Him, you get to ask Him what His purpose is in the situations you are praying about.
- 4. The Father's Provision (611): Daily we can admit our needs to God and ask for His provision. He knows what we need better than we do. He knows what we need for this very moment and He knows what the future looks like. As you listen to Him, you get to ask Him how He wants to provide for you.
- 5. The Father's Forgiveness (6:12): Unconfessed sin and unforgiveness toward others are the two things that stand in the way of a thriving and abiding relationship with the Father. God loves to shower His grace on us and He loves to show us how to forgive those who have hurt us. He wants us to walk in the light with Him and with others. As you listen to Him, you get to ask Him to bring to light anything that needs to be confessed, and to show your need to forgive others.
- 6. The Father's Guidance (6:13): We bring our concerns and temptations to God and ask Him for wisdom as we make our decisions, as we interact with others and as we carry out His mission. As you listen to the Father as Jesus did, only do what the Father tells you.
- 7. The Father's Protection (6:13): We have a spiritual enemy who doesn't like us. Any time we are posturing ourselves to listen to the Father and walk in His ways, the enemy gets upset. We walk in the authority that Jesus gave us, so we get to remind Satan of this, and we get to walk in the protection and power that God provides for us. As you listen, you get to ask for discernment for the ways of the enemy and you get to walk in the protection and authority that has been provided for you.