

# Prayer Discussion Guide

## Week 3—Jan 22nd

### *Thy Kingdom Come—Matthew 6:7-13, CEB*

<sup>7</sup> “When you pray, don’t pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they’ll be heard. <sup>8</sup> Don’t be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. <sup>9</sup> Pray like this:

Our Father who is in heaven,  
uphold the holiness of your name.

<sup>10</sup> Bring in your kingdom

so that your will is done on earth as it’s done in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us the bread we need for today.

<sup>12</sup> Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you,  
just as we also forgive those who have wronged us.

<sup>13</sup> And don’t lead us into temptation,  
but rescue us from the evil one.

## Response Questions

1. How does a person get a certain reputation?
2. What type of reputation do you want to have?
3. Jesus models a prayer that starts by asking God to uphold the holiness of God’s own name? What does that mean? How does God do that?
4. Jesus was here on Earth teaching us to pray and he asked God to bring the kingdom so God’s will is done here as it’s done in heaven. Do you recognize God’s kingdom in our world? Where has the kingdom come? Where hasn’t it? Consider this statement from the UMC’s *Book of Discipline*.

With other Christians we recognize that the reign of God is both a present and future reality. The church is called to be that place where the first signs of the reign of God are identified and acknowledged in the world. Wherever persons are being made new creatures in Christ, wherever the insights and resources of the gospel are brought to bear on the life of the world, God’s reign is already effective in its healing and renewing power.

We also look to the end time in which God’s work will be fulfilled. This prospect gives us hope in our present actions as individuals and as the Church. This expectation saves us from resignation and motivates our continuing witness and service.

## Challenges for Groups

*"<sup>10</sup>Bring in your kingdom, so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven." -Matthew 6:10*

Tipton UMC small groups are called Growth and Impact Groups. GIGs are intended to be more than a weekly Bible study or prayer group. They are intended to help individuals, the GIG itself, and the church GROW and IMPACT the world for the glory of God. To do that, we need GIGs to provide spaces where people can share in confidence and be challenged toward growth and impact, all within the warm fellowship of grace from God and fellow group members.

1. Considering the above, share with your group how you notice your will **working together with** God's will in the world. If individuals are unable to share, the group can notice and affirm what they see that's good in an individual and the GIG as a whole.
2. Considering the above, share with your group how you notice your will **in conflict with** God's will in the world (the world includes your own little space within yourself too).
3. Take time during your group meeting to pray for one another in even smaller groups of two or three.

## Practice this week—Prayer of Docility

As you allow God to conform your will to God's own will, try to be docile. You are in the hands of the Loving Almighty. Picture a child with a pencil in hand making indecipherable scribbles on a piece of paper. Now watch his mother place her hand over her child's and guide it on the page, making big beautiful letters. This is the prayer of docility. As you read these words, yield yourself into the loving hands of the Master Potter. Do not be afraid. God will not 'break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick' (Mt 12:20). God never steps on the weak, never snuffs out the smallest hope. Allow God's hand to rest upon yours and guide you.

-Adapted from *Prayer* by Richard Foster