

"Our Father..." **Matthew 6:9**

Jesus starts out instructing His disciples to pray "Our Father..." Throughout the Gospels Jesus refers to God as "Father" over 150 times. Throughout the Old Testament, many writers described God as having father-like qualities, but Jesus' way of addressing God was more informal and personal.

Jesus teaches us to call God our Father and we can follow His lead because of the gospel! Through Jesus, God has reconciled us to Himself (Colossians 1:19-20). This has been God's plan from the beginning (Genesis 3:15), along with the call for each of us to share the grace and message of the gospel to the world!

Romans 10:13-15 (HCSB)

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.¹⁴ But how can they call on Him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about Him? And how can they hear without a preacher?¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the gospel of good things!

Pray this with the body...

Speak praises to the Lord by acknowledging your sin and hopelessness without Christ.

Speak praises for the truth that you can call Him "Father" because someone shared with you the "gospel of good things."

Stop to think about what would await you without Christ. Stop and think about the reality of today and eternity for those who have not believed. Ask God to open your eyes to those around you who don't know Him as "Father" through Christ Jesus. Pray that God would break your heart for those who haven't believed or haven't heard and can't call Him their Father.

Ask God to convict and burden each of us at Grove for those who haven't heard or have yet to believe the gospel and cannot yet call Him "Father."

Pray for God's wisdom, that He would give us a God-breathed vision to execute the mission He has given us to follow Him to transform generations and nations. What is God's vision for us, as a church, to intentionally send those who will carry and preach the gospel?

