



The Gospel According To Matthew

“The kingdom of the heavens is at hand.”
-Matthew 4:17

September 30, 2007
Group Reflection Questions

1. Which line of the Lord’s Prayer do you have the most difficulty understanding?
2. Do you use the Lord’s Prayer in your own devotional life? What have you learned about it by praying it?
3. Take each line of this prayer and discuss how it might impact our lives.
4. How might pray teach us about “reigning?”
5. How would you explain the kingdom of God to some who has never heard of it?

Learning to Talk
Matthew 6:5-15

Do you remember what we are going to do forever? Well, if we believe Revelation, we will reign forever with God. So we have to ask ourselves: Am I ready to reign? We begin “training to reign” through prayer. I have found many people don’t know how to pray though. So Jesus starts with an outline for us—the Lord’s prayer.

Notice the kingdom language here in this prayer. And yes, “heaven,” literally is “the heavens.” So we are praying to a God in who we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28), we are praying about the kingdom of the heavens. We pray his will and kingdom might have their full realization. We pray for daily bread, what we need. Then we pray for the transformation of our hearts, to be forgiving hearts and hearts that do not delight in evil. Jesus gives the outline here of what we need to ask for in our lives if we are going reign with God, both now and forever. Just a quick suggestion from Martin Luther—pray each line of this prayer asking what does it teach? What do I need to thank God for? What do I need to confess? What does the world need to know?

