

## LHCF Sermon Discussion Guide

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### Connecting with God: The Lord's Prayer—Part 2 The Importance of God's Name

"This is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name." Matt. 6:9 (NIV)

#### 1. God's name is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the greatness of His person.

*Psalm 8:1 – "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth..."*

*Psalm 103:1 – "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name."*

*Psalm 113:1-3 – "...praise the name of the LORD. Blessed be the name of the Lord... From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised."*

*Psalm 148:13 – "Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven."*

#### 2. God's names reveal who He is especially when we \_\_\_\_\_

*"Then God spoke to Moses, telling him, "I am Yahweh. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but I did not make My name Yahweh known to them... Therefore tell the Israelites: I am Yahweh, and I will deliver you from the forced labor of the Egyptians and free you from slavery to them." Ex. 6:2-6 (HCS)*

#### 3. God's names are all realized in \_\_\_\_\_

*"Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2: 9-11 (NLT)*

#### 4. Five Blessings of experiencing His name

##### • Focused \_\_\_\_\_

*"I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good..." Ps. 52:9 (NIV)*

##### • Amplified \_\_\_\_\_

*"But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread your protection over them, that all who love your name may be filled with joy." Ps. 5:11 (NLT)*

##### • Unleashed \_\_\_\_\_

*"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus... Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name." Acts 4:13-17 (NIV)*

##### • Increased \_\_\_\_\_

*"Because he loves me, says the LORD, I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him." Ps. 91:14-15 (NIV)*

##### • Eternal \_\_\_\_\_

*"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12 (NIV)*

### Small Group Life:

#### Prayer... do you struggle with this discipline?

##### God's name is a revelation of the greatness of His person.

- His name is who He is and therefore you could substitute "you" for "thy name" or "His holy name" or "the name of"
- In the Bible names have meaning...
  - Nabel really was a fool
  - Jacob really was a manipulator
  - Peter really was a rock
  - Jesus really was and is a savior
- Prayer begins with:
  - #1 Our Father – we come as His children, dependant and relying, engaging in authentic relationship, not empty ritual
  - #2 "hallowed by your name" – initially our focus is on who He is, not our needs, our problems, our hurts, our anything
  - This is the "face to face" aspect of proseuche we discussed last week!
  - Also the thanksgiving aspect of proseuche... prayer always begins with acknowledging that "Our Father" is good, we come believing that He has our best interest at heart, and we come with worship, acknowledging His worth and His graciousness toward us.

- What happens when we jump right into the “give us our daily bread” without connecting hearts? Prayer feels empty and meaningless, we must make the heart connection and then talking about the issues becomes less important.

### God's names reveal who He is especially when we need Him most.

- Most every name of God was revealed by God to meet a specific need or crisis.
- Very important reason and why we do well to focus on who He is... because He still reveals Himself.
- Example #1: Exodus 6
  - “God almighty” = El Shaddai
  - “Yahweh” = Covenant God
- Example #2: Exodus 15:22-26
  - Here a new name revealed: Jehovah Rapha “the Lord my healer”
- Example #3: Genesis 22:6-14
  - Another name revealed: Jehovah Jireh “The Lord my provider”
- Example #4: Judges 6:14-24
  - New name revealed: Jehovah Shalom “the Lord my peace”
  - God uses this same pattern over and over. God’s names are numerous:
    - Jehovah Rohey – the lord my shepherd
    - Jehovah Nissi – the lord my banner/victory
    - Jehovah Shammah – the lord is with me
  - God wants to reveal Himself to you, taking time in prayer to focus on His name. His nature is how we experience who He is.
  - A proper understanding of scripture tells us “The OT is the NT concealed and the NT is the OT revealed”
  - What’s revealed in the NT is that we find all of God’s OT names revealed in the one name which is above all names... Jesus
  - Remember, Jesus said “if you have seen me, you have seen the Father

### God's names are all realized in Jesus

- “Therefore” - Because of Jesus’ obedience in becoming human, living a selfless and sinless life, and dying on the cross for our sins, God honored Him above all others (name above all others).
- In prayer, we bow/surrender to His Lordship and confess/agree that He is King, not ourselves!
- Remember, because we are in Christ, redeemed, we are given all the benefits of the Father’s love, kindness, grace, mercy, comfort, peace, power and privileges.
- Discuss how Jesus put it, in John 16:23-24.

### Five Blessings of experiencing His name:

- Focused help:
  - God specializes in providing ways of escape... He:
    - Parted the Red Sea

- Calms storming seas
- Closes the lions mouths
- Provides manna from heaven
- Brings water from a rock
- Causes the blind to see
- Causes the lame to walk
- Causes the dead to raise to life

- How about you? Do you need some help/hope? There is a variable... His name is Jesus. Our worry and fear is simply evidence that we don’t know His name enough.

- Amplified joy: Bible definition of Joy is satisfaction and contentment.
  - Amplified joy comes as we “take refuge in God” as we “sing joyful praises” and as we “love you’re His name”
  - Recipe for joy: Depend on God; Offer thanksgiving because He is faithful; Love God... walk in obedience
- Unleashed power: Read Acts 4: 13-17 who did the on lookers notice they had been with?
  - Though they were “ordinary men” they enjoyed extraordinary power because of their relationship to Jesus.
  - Can prayer help us to learn to see ourselves as God see’s us and not what we see in the mirror?
- Increased protection: Remember, Jesus name in Hebrew is Yeshua which means “Savior”.
  - Do we still need to be rescued and protected from all kinds of trouble?
  - We needed to be rescued from ourselves and wages of sin.
- Eternal salvation: Remember, This name above every other name (Jesus) is the only name that satisfies God's demand for justice.
  - Will good works save you? Good works won’t save you, sincerity won’t save you.
  - Jesus said “no one comes to the Father but by me.
  - You can know but it begins with prayer...

**How about you? Do you know if you were to die today you would go to heaven? You can know for sure and it begins with prayer... If you don’t know for sure pray this prayer:**

Dear God: I confess that I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins. I believe in my heart that Jesus died for me and that God raised Him from the dead. I do now confess that Jesus is my Lord and Savior. With Your help, I will turn away from my old life and start a new life in Christ. I pray in Jesus name. Amen!!!

#### SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE ANSWER KEY:

1. God's name is a revelation of the greatness of His person; 2. God's names reveal who He is especially when we need Him most; 3. God's names are all realized in Jesus; 4. Five Blessings of experiencing His name: Focused help; Amplified joy; Unleashed power; Increased protection; Eternal salvation.