



**WEEK TWO
MIDWEEK HANDOUT
"Our Father
In Heaven,
Hallowed Be
Your Name**

Lord's Prayer: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever. Amen

Monday: Our Father:

We call on God as Father in our prayers to reminds us that we are His Children. Ephesians 1:5, *In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons (and daughters) through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.* No matter how your father acted he taught you about God the father. Sometimes it was by comparison and sometimes it was by way of contrast. If your earthly father did a great job, don't settle for that level of awareness of your heavenly father because his love and actions are even greater. If your earthly father did a poor job, don't let that limit you from experiencing a deep relationships with the best Father ever. Our heavenly father is greater than all you dreamed or imagined. He is kinder and gentler and he cares for your needs more than your earthly father ever could.

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 120

Q. Why did Christ command us to call God "our Father"?

A. To awaken in us at the very beginning of our prayer what should be basic to our prayer—a childlike reverence and trust that through Christ God has become our Father, and that just as our parents do not refuse us the things of this life, even less will God our Father refuse to give us what we ask in faith
[Matt. 7:9-11](#); [Luke 11:11-13](#)

Starting our prayer by referring to God as our father not only gives us confidence that we come to him in prayer and he will hear us because he loves us. It also challenges us to have a child like awe and trust in him. To remember that he know what is best for us even His plan it is different than what we think should be.

How does knowing God as Our Father encourage or challenge you today? Spend some time praying to God about these things.

Some have said that Hallowing God's name is really making God the central focus of your life. This week, we will spend time asking God to make his name Holy in different aspects of our life. **What are some specific ways that God could make his name Holy in your life today (your pursuits, your pleasures, your priorities, your relationships, etc.). Pray for these things.**

Tuesday: In Heaven

When Jesus instructs us to pray to Our Father In Heaven he is reminding us of how magnificent and powerful the person we are praying to is. He is not the smartest person in the world. He is

the all-knowing ruler of the universe. He is not just the most influential person on the school board. He is the Lord over all Creation. When we pray to God, we are not petitioning some local power broker or political big wig or academic know it all. We are making our requests to the one who rules over all from His heavenly throne. Jesus wants us to start off our prayer life remembering who it is that we are praying to!

Why is it important for us to remember that we are praying to our Father in Heaven?

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 121

Q. Why the words “in heaven”?

A. These words teach us not to think of God’s heavenly majesty as something earthly,¹ and to expect everything needed for body and soul from God’s almighty power.²
1 Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:24-25
2 Matt. 6:25-34; Rom. 8:31-32

What difference does who we are praying to make in our prayers? What comfort do you get from knowing that you are praying to the all knowing powerful God?

Some have said that Hallowing God’s name is really making God the central focus of your life. This week, we will spend time asking God to make his name Holy in different aspects of our life.

What are some specific ways that God could make his name Holy in CrossWay Church today (Ex. through our preaching and teaching, through our outreach, through our interactions with one another.)? Pray for these things.

Wednesday: Hallowed Be Your Name

Everyone knows what a petition is—it’s a piece of paper that people pass around for others to sign in hopes that this will induce the ruling governing body to change the rules of the game. A petition, then, is a request. For this reason, those specific requests Jesus gave His disciples in the Lord’s Prayer are known as the petitions. These are the priorities that Jesus indicated His disciples should ask for in their prayers. Hallowed be Your name is the first petition that Jesus tells his disciples they must pray. To Hallow something means to make it holy, or set apart. We don’t really have a word that carries the weight of these words. The closest thing might be to make something the central focus or the most consuming thing in our life here on earth. This is the first request that Jesus models in his prayer that we ask God to be the central focus of life here on earth as it is in heaven.

Ask God to show you how you have belittled his name this week or not made him the primary focus. Spend some time confess those things to him.

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 122

Q. What does the first petition mean?

A. “Hallowed be your name” means: Help us to truly know you,¹ to honor, glorify, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth.² And it means, Help us to direct all our living what we think, say, and do so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.³
1 Jer. 9:23-24; 31:33-34; Matt. 16:17; John 17:3
2 Ex. 34:5-8; Ps. 145; Jer. 32:16-20; Luke 1:46-55, 68-75; Rom. 11:33-36
3 Ps. 115:1; Matt. 5:16

In *Fifty Seven Words that Changed the World*, Darrel Johnson says that one of the ways that we can pray the first request, Hallowed be your name is Father in heaven, -Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, or own Father, make real your character and magnify your name on earth as it is in heaven. Father make yourself real on earth as you are in heaven; enhance your reputation in all the earth.

What are some specific ways that God could make his name Holy in your relationships today. Pray for these things.

Thursday: Hallowed Be Your Name

Reputation is everything in our culture. If you have a bad reputation in your work, your home, or your neighborhood you may be ostracized from others. Seeking approval, reputation, and how we are perceived by others is the calling card of our culture.

What is God's reputation in the world? Do Christians ever consider if the reputation of God is growing or diminishing? While every illustration breaks down at some point, reputation is what the first petition of the Lord's Prayer is all about. God's reputation is always under attack; He does not have to worry about it. God in the end deserves ultimate worship, glory, and honor. He is Creator and Savior and does not need the applause of others. This doesn't mean that we don't have to do our part to hallow it.

So what does it mean to "hallow" the name of God? The "hallowing" of God's name is to set apart God as holy, other, and separate from His creation. The "hallowing" of God's name is to ensure that his name is made much of in the world. To be made much of in our lives. This petition is about the reputation of God.

Do you think God has a good reputation in our world today? Why or why not?

God calls us to be ambassadors of Christ. This means we are called to represent him to the world around us.

What are some specific ways that God could make his name Holy in our world today (Ex. Others would come to know God, Christians could exemplify God through service, etc.)? Pray for these things.

Friday: Hallowed Be Your Name

The Bible uses many different titles and names for God. Today, we pick out names because they are popular or not so common and because we like the way they sound. In Jesus' day, names were much more important. They revealed the character and nature of this person. The names of God are important too. Here is a brief list of some of them.

<i>Yahweh = I am with you</i>	<i>Wonderful Counselor</i>
<i>Emmanuel = God with us</i>	<i>Everlasting Father</i>
<i>El Shaddai = Mighty God</i>	<i>Prince of Peace</i>
<i>El Roi = the God who sees</i>	<i>Good Shepherd</i>
<i>El Rophe = the God who heals</i>	<i>Light of Life</i>
<i>Adonai = Lord, master</i>	<i>Bread of Life</i>
<i>Jesus = Joshua, Yahweh saves</i>	<i>The Vine</i>
<i>Alpha and Omega = first and last</i>	

Biblical authors used different names or phrases to describe God because they wanted to highlight a certain aspect of God's nature or character that was important to the people they were writing in that particular situation.

What situations are you facing today? Read through the list several times. Which names stand out to you? Why are they important to you?

What are some specific ways that God could make his name Holy in your neighborhood today (Ex. Others would come to know God, You could show God to them, etc.)? Pray for these things.

What is the Heidelberg Catechism?

This document was written in 1563. Its name is derived from the city in which it was written. It is a remarkably warm-hearted and personalized confession of faith that was created to teach the basic truths of the Christian faith through a series of Questions and Answers. It is a document that is still used by Reformed churches to the present day.

Why is it included in the prayer guide?

The catechism saw value in teaching the Lord's prayer to new Christians and explain its content further. We include it in this prayer guide to give us a wider historical perspective. We also think that its answers are still applicable and challenging today.