

Biblical Topics

Lord's Prayer – Introduction

Our Father in heaven

What does this mean?

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

We say *our* Father because the believers in Christ are the children of one Father and therefore pray for and with one another. This title also teaches us to pray not only for our own wants but also to pray to God for the necessities of our whole brotherhood and of each member.

- Ephesians 4:6: one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- Galatians 3:26: You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,

Jesus teaches us to call God “*Our Father*,” because it is through Him alone that we are God’s children. God has many names in the Bible, but “Father” is an especially dear and winning name. As children are not afraid to speak to their father about their needs, so we are invited to do so with our heavenly Father.

- 1 John 3:1: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
- Romans 8:15: For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba*, Father.
- Psalm 103:13: As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.
- Hebrews 4:16: Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

The phrase “in heaven” reminds us that our Father is Lord over all. Therefore, He is able to do far more than we can ask or imagine. These words do not mean that God is far away from us, too far to hear and help to us.

- Psalm 115:3-4, “Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. ⁴ But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men.”
- Psalm 124:8, “Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

The above information is taken from: “Luther’s Small Catechism” annotated by Edward W. A. Koehler.