



Pray Like Jesus
Part 2 – Your Kingdom Come
Pastor Ted Cunningham

If you're brand new to our church, we're in this series. We're going through the Lord's Prayer together as a church and we are looking at what it means to pray like Jesus. Last week we looked at *Our Father* and this week we are looking at *Your Kingdom Come*. We were going to combine "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We were going to put those two together, but then we decided that, in our political climate, it would be best that we separate your "kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

I want to state this right up front. I just want to state this and especially to the young people. You can maintain and grow your faith while being patriotic. A lot of young people are moving away from patriotism because they think citizenship in the kingdom of heaven means they can't really pledge a loyalty to a nation upon the earth. For both Amy and I, all four of our grandfathers served in World War II. You're looking at a pastor who is extremely patriotic. I proclaim that, I have no problem saying that, but at the same time, I do not want to stress over what's happening in our nation today. Is there anyone else with me?

We're only hours away from the Iowa Caucus. Did anybody here ever participate in an Iowa Caucus? We're close enough to Iowa. Could you stand and explain the whole thing to us real quick? No, seriously, stand; we're all very confused. I think I might get elected tonight. I don't know. If I just have enough friends in Iowa...? In the first service, there were like 30 people that had been in an Iowa Caucus and they must have come to the first service because they are farmers who get up early anyway.

With all the unrest and all the political talk, where do we pledge our allegiance? Last week, we looked at this big idea of the difference between a public prayer and a private prayer. We talked about a showcase prayer and how nervous some of us get praying in public. The emphasis of Matthew 6 is a private prayer. Jesus tells us to go into our room and, just between us and our Father in heaven, have time in prayer. You're not praying so that you can impress other people; that's not the goal. We talked about public prayer a little bit and we showed that video. We challenged you to really focus on the private prayer and praying to your Father. We looked at how denominations can impact this and really change the way we look at public prayer. For many of you, the way you pray is based on your personality and your denomination.

I was thinking this week about one of my favorite songs from the 80s. How many of you miss the 80s? Man, I miss the 80s; it was one of the greatest decades ever. Mark Lowry wrote a song about the denominations. Most of you probably never heard of this, but it goes like this:

*You may be Presbyterian, rather proper and severe;
You may be Pentecostal, swinging from a chandelier.
Episcopal, congregational, or maybe Nazarene;
Methodist, Assembly of God, or somewhere in between.
We can count the variations on our fingers and our toes;
We got Catholics and Lutherans and lots more heaven knows.
We got stacks of facts and doctrines on which we could disagree;
But if your heart belongs to Jesus, then you belong with me.*

When I heard that song for the first time, I thought how that is it right there. We're so caught up in our denominations that we often forget the emphasis of our Savior when we pray.

We are looking at this private prayer, the relational prayer. Last week, we looked at the big idea of *Our Father*, which is the very first part of the Lord's Prayer. We go to our Father in heaven. We honor his name. We esteem him. We made it really clear that we are not creating God and we're not creating a Jesus. We shared that Dr. David Jeremiah quote where someone would come up to him after he preaches on hell or judgment and say, "My God would never..." and Dr. Jeremiah would say, "Yeah, you're right because your God doesn't exist."

We looked at going to the scripture for our Father and not creating a father that we are looking for. I was thinking about the craziness with elections sometimes and that as parents we don't go to our children to figure out how they want to be parented. "What would work for you this week?" "What would make you happy this week? Last week seemed to be a tough time with us laying down the rules; how can I be a better parent?" We don't do that. We go to our heavenly Father, knowing who he is. That's the establishing of the prayer, but here's how we often go into prayer. We often go into prayer with our lists and our requests. At the beginning of our prayer time, we want to keep the emphasis on our Father.

Jesus put it this way in Matthew 7. The Lord's Prayer is in the Sermon on the Mount and this is the next chapter. Jesus says 9 **"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then..."** Here's my favorite parenting verse in the Bible. **"...though you are evil..."** What a great verse for Mom and Dad. Jesus is saying that as a parent you know how to give good gifts to your children. This is an overlooked parenting text in the Bible, but Jesus is saying that you, as a parent, as an evil parent, know how to bless your children. You, as a sinful parent...

Just turn to your husband or wife or your mom and dad. You'll really enjoy this if you are sitting next to your parents. Just say, "You are evil." You have to do that talking back and forth stuff so the charismatics are comfortable in your service.

He's saying you're imperfect. He says "good gifts." I like to remind my kids of this. "What are the good gifts in this passage? Bread and fish. I'm a good dad because I feed you. What's the primary responsibility of a parent? Food, clothing, protection. I've give you a house to live in; you're eating this

week; those are good gifts. You should write me a thank you card for that. And I do that as a sinful father.”

Jesus is making this point. How about your heavenly father? ...***know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*** Jesus said it last week. Even before you make the request, your heavenly Father, who is unseen, knows what it is you’re going to request.

I love that sacred echo that pops up after a message. You’ll send me stuff. I met with a lady this week. She was reading an article and she thought it fit perfect with what we were talking about. I’m going to take the quote from the article from Pastor Andrew Wilson. *“Prayer is not intended to move from action to relationship, but from relationship to action.”* Often times we approach our Father in heaven that way. It’s “I need this, I want this, I’ll do this, I’ll stop doing this.” We come with all of our requests, thinking our action is establishing the relationship. Hopefully, you will see, with the emphasis of the Lord’s Prayer, that we are starting with relationship. From relationship, we move to action.

Next week, we are going to pick up with that action. This week, we are going to talk about the kingdom. But, remember that the Lord’s Prayer ends with “give us this day our daily bread,” “forgive us our sins,” “lead us not into temptation,” “deliver us, as one toddler says, some email.” Instead of “deliver us from evil.” So, your kids are listening.

I loved how the dads would come up to me last week and say, “We’ve never really prayed as a family, but I’m really understanding this morning and I want to start praying around the table, around the bedside. I want to pray as a family together, but I’m scared to death. I don’t know what to say or how to start. And sometimes when I pray, the words don’t come out and when they do come out, they don’t seem genuine.”

I heard that from many dads and I want to say “Dad, get the prayer started.” Start with “Our Father in heaven” and then “your kingdom come, you will be done.” This where we’re headed today and this is in Matthew 6: 10. We are going to spend the bulk of the time looking at the idea of kingdom.

So, what is Jesus asking us to pray when he says “...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” We know Jesus said, “When you pray, pray like this.” The Lord’s Prayer was not given to us to be recited; it was given to us as a model. When Jesus says “...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” here is our prayer: “Father, would you please have control over the earth as you have control over heaven. You are sovereign. I don’t want to think about a world in which God is not sovereign over. Even in the mess and when we don’t know what’s going to happen next and war is breaking out and what we are doing about the Middle East and all of this unrest and Christians being unsettled, we pray Father, have control over the earth as you have control over heaven.”

We are going to look at the kingdom in two parts today. We are going to see what it is now and what it will one day be.

His kingdom is a present reality among us.

When you study the gospels, and there are four, you will see that Matthew covers the idea of kingdom more than any other gospel. Right behind him is Luke. If you do a study... I encourage you this week, as a family, to go to biblegateway.com or your Bible app or whatever. Open your Bible and start highlighting, but do a word search on *kingdom* and you'll see that Matthew uses the idea of kingdom 54 times.

I went through it all this week to try to understand that the kingdom is a present reality and it is among us. You see it build out through the entire book. In Matthew 4, before the Sermon on the Mount, here is what we read. **17** *From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."* Jesus began to preach repent, turn from the world system, turn from the world values, turn from the way you think it all should be done. Turn from that for the kingdom of heaven has come near. The kingdom of heaven is here; now you turn from what you're hoping saves you to what truly saves you.

When you read in Luke, you read that even the Pharisees would begin to question Jesus on this. **20** *Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed..."* Now this is important. In the second part of the message, we are going to see the kingdom as physical, visible, tangible, and political. It is a kingdom that we will reign in at the Second Coming of Christ.

21 *"...nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."* It's not a place now that you can point to on a map because the kingdom of God is in your midst. Jesus is saying "I am here, the kingdom of God has come near," and as we move through this – going back to Matthew 4 – you see **23** *Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.*

So let's answer some questions about the kingdom. Who is the kingdom for? At the very beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." As a follower of Jesus, if you've ever felt persecuted for your faith, he said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

What keeps a person out of the kingdom of heaven? ***It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.*** Keep in mind that money is not evil; it is the love of money that is the root of all evil. Ecclesiastes 5 says if God has blessed you with riches or possessions and then enables you to enjoy those, you should. It's someone who is holding onto the world values and the world value of loving money that won't let go of the grasp they have on money... Jesus is simply saying it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.

In Matthew 18, **1** *At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"* "When the kingdom is set up, you're going to need some good managers. You're going to need some good people to come alongside you and take care of business." And so they asked, ***"Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"***

2 He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children..." Not like kings. You're not changing to become like a king or like a director or a boss over this. You're going to become like a little child. ***"...you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."***

At the Last Supper in Matthew 26, Jesus was eating with the disciples for the last time. He tells them, **29 "I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."**

He spoke so much to the disciples and to people about the kingdom. When he would share a story, a parable, he would take a kingdom story and give it an earthly plot and earthly characters so that we could better grasp the kingdom. That's why, when you read a parable, it starts off with "the kingdom of heaven is like..."

I had a professor in seminary that hated every worship song that referenced *King* Jesus. It was a debate among scholars. It's not the role he is in right now because they're speaking very specifically to the millennial kingdom when it's a visible, physical, political kingdom and he would not like to be referenced in that way. So, when you see kingdom of heaven and kingdom of God, we understand this as a spiritual kingdom here among us right now.

Can you imagine, just for a second, the disciples listening to so much talk about the kingdom, wondering is it now? We are ready. We are ready for this kingdom to be set up. When you read in Acts 1, Jesus died, rose again, and now he appears to them, and they are going to continue to ask questions about the kingdom. **2 ...until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.**

Now this is exciting because this is now the resurrected Jesus speaking about the kingdom of God. Where would you go with that? I would be like "I am right now... Lord, please return before the Iowa Caucus. I am exhausted. I know you, unlike Donald Trump, will show up and I'm ready."

You have to get into the heart and the feelings of the disciples for just a second. "Yes, Lord, you've taught so much about the kingdom; we are ready."

Look at how the story progresses. **4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them...** I have tried to imagine this I don't know how many different times. The resurrected Jesus enjoying a meal with me. What do you talk about? Can you imagine how intense those conversations were? He's eating with them. ***...he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised (which is the Holy Spirit), which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*** In a few days, you'll be baptized by the Holy Spirit... "Is it then? Is it a few days we are going to get the kingdom?"

And what does Jesus says? I love this. **6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”** “Let’s do this thing.”

Then look at what Jesus says to them. **7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.”** So, don’t ever fall for the people who start guessing and start putting dates and times on it. That’s the authority the Father has.

I shared my word picture with you in our 1 Thessalonians study, but it’s my favorite part in a wedding when the door busts open and there is Dad and Daughter standing at the back of the church and they start walking down the aisle. There is crying and there is excitement. The bride is beautiful. And then I get to say the words to the groom and I love saying them every time. “Go get her.” He steps down and stands beside her and we have a very special moment.

There is a day coming where the Father will turn to his son and say, “Go get her. Go get the bride. Go get your church.”

Jesus is telling them; he’s giving them these instructions. **7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”** So, he’s saying, “No, we’re not setting up the physical kingdom right now, but the kingdom of God is among you. The kingdom of God is in you and it is time for you to be my witnesses.”

The scripture in Hebrews 12 has this great concept for us to be encouraged during times when we feel like everything is falling apart. **1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses...** When the scripture uses the term witnesses, it’s not referring to spectators. It’s referring to those who testify to the truth and those who have placed faith in this kingdom. Those people are gathered around us. Who are they? Well you read about them in Hebrews 11. It’s Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Gideon, David, Samuel, the prophets... They are gathered around us and these witnesses are testifying.

I had a birthday this week, but yesterday was with my parents and Amy’s parents. We always crack up with my parents and Amy’s parents because the conversation always starts with what joints are aching on them at this moment, and then we move to politics. Does anyone know what I’m talking about? My dad was laughing harder than anybody in the first service because he doesn’t take it seriously, but he’s like “I do have some stiffening of this joint right here.” Then we always move into politics. All week, I’m talking about the kingdom, thinking about the kingdom, and studying the kingdom. Whenever politics come up in any conversation I’m having lately, this fear sets in. Everybody is scared. I’m surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses; I’m not living in fear. They have gone before us. The prophets prophesied about the coming of the kingdom. They knew it was going to happen.

I love what Andy Stanley said this week. He’s been doing a whole series, trying to calm people down politically and get followers of Christ back on the most important thing. He finally said to his congregation... As a pastor, he said something and I think he said it before he thought it through. You

really need to think things through before you just say them. I just want you to know that. He said this and when he said it, it went viral because everybody agreed. I love how he just looked at his congregation and said, "Stop it! You're scaring the children!"

If you get a chance, go to northpoint.org and watch this message. It's a fantastic and encouraging message. I want to quote Hebrews 12: 1 for you about the cloud of witnesses and what that means for you and I and how you and I should live our lives because we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. As we quote this, I want you to know this is exactly how Andy Stanley quoted it and it encouraged me because it's what I should do and how I should live because of the cloud of witnesses.

"Let us hide, whine, complain, hoard our resources just in case, put our Bibles in a drawer, build bomb shelters, purchase ammunition, blame the cops, blame the president, blame the teaches, blame our mommas, demand our rights, build a wall [and make them pay for it], tax the rich, play it safe, find somebody to sue, take back our country, pray Jesus returns so we don't have to suffer."

Did I miss anybody? That didn't go over well in the first service either. Everybody was like "That's one of the worst misquotes of the Bible." It worked way better in Atlanta, so I don't know why that didn't work here. It's because some of you are like "I went to the gun show last week, that's why, Ted." I'm all for self-defense; I'm not speaking to that, but my trust is in none of that. None of that is my Savior. Jesus is my Savior.

Let's look at what Hebrews 12: 1 actually says. ***1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*** And all God's people said... Amen.

How do we pray your kingdom come, your will be done if so many of us have our eyes here. I get it. Pastor Rick Warren always says this: *"Don't become so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good."* This is why the hymns are written from those who would sit down, quill in hand, and begin to write. We don't see a lot of this in our modern worship music, but in the hymns, what we see is a hymn writer who had one eye on heaven and one eye on earth. Everything happening down here was through the filter of ultimate control by our Father in heaven. "We ask and pray that you have control over the earth as you have in heaven."

This week, in trying to figure out how to pray "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" with the kingdom being a present reality in our lives today and in our midst and among us in a spiritual life... I like what Bible.org put and I've been praying this one myself. We pray for the spread of the gospel and the establishment of the rule and reign of the Father in the hearts of men and women. We pray for the welfare of the distressed and the oppressed. We pray for physical healing, deliverance, change of hearts, broken relationships, and such thing as would change with an acceptance of the Father and his ways.

We pray your “kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” It is among us and then here’s the second part of the message.

We also look forward to Jesus’ return to live and rule among us.

Yesterday, as we had a celebration service for Linda, I know Keith O’Neil... I don’t know which service he was in. It’s a faith being realized as we prayed for our friend Debbie Sue and R.P. who I know watch online. We have an anticipation of the day the groom comes for the bride and that’s the last part of the message.

His kingdom is a future reality established at the Second Coming.

In John 18, Jesus said this: ***“My kingdom is not of this world.”*** He’s speaking at that time and in that place. ***“If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders.”*** So that the kingdom could be established physically, right now. ***“But now my kingdom is from another place.”***

We looked at this chart back in 1 Thessalonians 5, but to bring it back up again, here we are in the Church Age. We believe, according to 1 Thessalonians 4, the Rapture of the church takes place right before a time of Tribulation upon the earth, and at the Second Coming of Christ, we return with Christ and we rule and reign with Christ. We refer to this 1,000-year reign of Christ as The Millennial Kingdom. Now here is where everything changes. It moves from just being a spiritual life among us to the kingdom being a physical, political reign here upon the earth.

John Wahlberg puts it this way and I get this chart and the timeline from John Wahlberg. *“Though the Millennial Kingdom is a political kingdom, it nevertheless will provide a context for a high level of spiritual life and experience. Though Christ reigns in the hearts of his followers [now, today, here among us] in the Millennial Kingdom, this will be a universal, political, and visible kingdom.”*

He goes on to say, as he speaks very clearly about this. *“An important part of the Millennial Kingdom is that Christ will be visibly present and the world will be able to see his glory. Psalm 72: 19 speaks about this that the whole earth will be filled with his glory. In addition to these aspects of spiritual life, full knowledge of God and his ways are indicated. In Isaiah 11, we read they will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In addition to the kingdom being righteous in relationship to spiritual life, it’s also a time of great peace.”*

Peace is a word we don’t seem to be comprehending in our world anymore. But in the Millennial Kingdom, it will be perfect peace. Nations will no longer fight and interpersonal relationships will be peaceful.

We read about this in Isaiah 2: 4. ***4 He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples.*** This is the prophecy of the coming kingdom. ***They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.*** And all God’s people said... Amen. That is what Jesus brings.

In keeping with these predictions, the power of the Holy Spirit will work in the millennial scene. Saints in the Millennial Kingdom will be indwelt by the Holy Spirit as they are in this present age. The Millennial Kingdom will manifest a high level of spiritual life, unequaled in any previous dispensation or any previous time. And we are in the dispensation of the church right now.

Jesus put it this way in John 3: 3, as we talk and end with the citizenship of the kingdom of God. ***“Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”***

This week, we did a family presentation. It’s funny how the timing works on this. It was on Monday morning and we were told we were to speak for five to ten minutes on a subject. It was me, Amy, and Carson. They told us that when we were done with the talk, we were to lead them in the pledges: the pledge to the Christian flag and the American flag. Well, I froze. I know them. I have them down, but then when you have to do it in a public setting and you’re leading it, it becomes a whole new ball game, doesn’t it?

How many of you know the pledge to the Christian flag? The rest of you are like “Well, I guess we aren’t Christians; we don’t know the pledge to the Christian flag.” You’re still a Christian.

But I don’t know it either, so Carson leads out on that one. I had to be reminded. I went back to vacation Bible school. Does anybody know what I’m talking about? We had a pledge to the Bible, a pledge to the Christian flag, but these things slip your mind in your 40s and 50s. So Carson leads it flawlessly. He was then going to lead the pledge to the flag of the United States of America.

For some reason, my wife, who hates public speaking... She was shaking all week about this five-minute presentation. I said “let me carry it; we’ll be fine. You just relax.” For some reason, she grabs the flag of the United States of America and she’s going to lead the pledge. I’m like “What are you doing? Do you know it?” Don’t judge me. Does anybody know what I’m talking about? It’s scary when you have to lead it. She tells me afterwards “I don’t know what I did. I don’t know why I grabbed it.” She holds that flag and I know she’s thinking about her grandpas. She holds that flag out with her hand over her heart and she says, “I pledge allegiance to the American flag...” That’s wrong already! I know it starts with I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Good citizens you all are. I was questioning my wife’s citizenship. She and Ted Cruz. No... She was born in Minnesota, not Canada.

Afterwards, I go “Amy, you blew it on the first line!”

She goes, “I don’t know what came over me!” And then we laughed.

We’ve been talking all week and I think this brings us to a point. We get citizenship to the United States of America. You are a citizen if you were born here. If you were not born here, you went through classes. I have many friends who became citizens after the fact. And this is a pretty big issue in our country right now – the path to citizenship and what it looks like and amnesty and all this. We’re having all these great conversations. No one is really spelling out what it takes to become a citizen. We’re talking about one group of people and how they entered and whether or not they should be citizens.

Jesus spells it out clearly. To be a citizen of the kingdom of God, you must be born again. I'm born again, I've placed faith in Jesus, and I'm a citizen of the kingdom of God. I'm grateful to be married to a wife who has placed faith in Jesus. She's been born again. She may not be a U.S. citizen, but she is a citizen of the kingdom of Almighty God. I'm grateful for a 10 year old and a 12 year old who have been born again and have placed faith in Jesus and are citizens of the kingdom of God.

Maybe some of your unrest and your inability to pray "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, your kingdom come, your will be done, your control over the earth as you have control over the heavens... Maybe it's because the citizenship issue has not been settled in your soul. If you will confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus was raised from the dead, you shall be saved. Placing faith in Jesus, becoming born again... now you enter into the kingdom of God and you will one day rule and reign with Christ in a physical, political kingdom. But some of us are so caught up, like the disciples, wondering about right now, about what we are doing right now. Right now is the kingdom and we pray...

So now, watch how this works. "Our Father in heaven, here's what I need." That's how a lot of our prayers go. I'll tell you that's how a lot of my prayers have gone for a long time. I told my family that now we need to make sure at the beginning of our prayer, whether it's over a meal or before bedtime or leaving the car going to school, we pray over not just our day, but "Our Father in heaven, we know you are sovereign."

Think about what it does for the rest of your prayer when you pray unto your Father in heaven "You are in control. This world is not run by us. You are the creator and the sustainer of all life. Nothing that happens is a surprise to you. Our Father in heaven, we esteem your name as highly valuable. We ask and we pray that you have control over this earth as you have control in heaven. We believe that, we have faith in that as a citizen of the kingdom of heaven and now give us today our daily bread and forgive us of our sins that we would forgive those who have sinned against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." And all God's people said... Amen.

Father, it's in the name of Jesus that we do pray to you. You are our Father; we honor you and we esteem you as highly valuable. We come to you as our dad. We ask that you have control over the earth as you have in heaven. We submit to that control. We believe in your sovereignty. We believe there is not a moment where you step off the throne and something bad happens in our lives and you're no longer in control. We believe that you are in control.

We as a church family ask that you meet our physical needs, that you forgive us of our sins, lead us not into temptation this week; we ask that you guide us in paths of righteousness. I ask that you deliver each and every person, each and every family, and each and every marriage from the evil one. I ask that you cover us in the blood of Jesus, protect us from evil, and fulfill your purpose in our lives.

It is in the name of Jesus that everyone agreed and said... Amen.