

## WHEN YOU PRAY

Remember Who You're Talking To

March 8, 2026

### Message Summary.

Prayer is not about saying the right words. It is about remembering Who we're talking to.

Jesus teaches us to begin prayer with "Our Father," reminding us God is personal, attentive, and good. Our heavenly Father is always listening, willing, and working for our good. When we remember who God is, our prayers grow bold instead of small.

### Key Scripture Summaries.

**Matthew 6:9-13** | Jesus gives the Lord's Prayer as a model for prayer, beginning with the words "Our Father in heaven." Prayer begins with recognizing who God is and our relationship to Him.

**Luke 11:5-10** | Jesus tells a story about persistence in prayer. God invites us to ask boldly and continually because He listens and responds to His children.

**Matthew 7:9-11** | Jesus compares God to a loving father who gives good gifts to his children. God may not give everything we ask for, but He always gives what is good.

**Hebrews 4:16** | Because of Jesus, we can approach God with confidence, bringing our needs directly to Him.

### Start Talking.

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word prayer?
2. Where do you most often find yourself praying (car, home, outside, church, group, dinner, w/others, etc.)?
3. Have you ever felt like your prayers were "hitting the ceiling"? What made you feel that way?
4. How has your experience with earthly fathers influenced how you think about God as Father?

### Start Thinking.

- Jesus teaches us to begin prayer with "Our Father." Why do you think starting there matters?
- The sermon highlighted three truths about God: He is listening. He is willing. He is good. Which of these truths is hardest for you to believe sometimes?

- Why do you think persistence is such an important part of prayer?
- How does remembering who God is change the way we pray?
- What does it mean for our prayers to align with God's will rather than only our desires?

### Start Sharing.

1. Share about a time when God answered a prayer in a way you didn't expect.
2. Have you ever looked back and realized you're glad God didn't answer a prayer the way you asked?
3. Is there a situation in your life right now where you need to keep praying and not give up?
4. Who is someone in your life that you regularly pray for?

### Start Praying.

*God, thank You that we can come to You as our Father. You are always listening, always willing to help, and always good. Help us trust You when answers are delayed or different from what we expect. Teach us to pray with boldness and persistence. Shape our hearts so our desires align with Yours. Strengthen our faith this week as we bring our needs and the needs of others to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### Start Doing.

Choose one or two to practice this week:

- Start with "Father." Begin your prayers by intentionally saying "Father" to remind yourself Who you're talking to.
- Pray about one real need to God in a simple prayer each day.
- Pray for someone by name consistently this week.
- Keep asking. Write it down. Start a simple prayer list and watch how God works over time.

