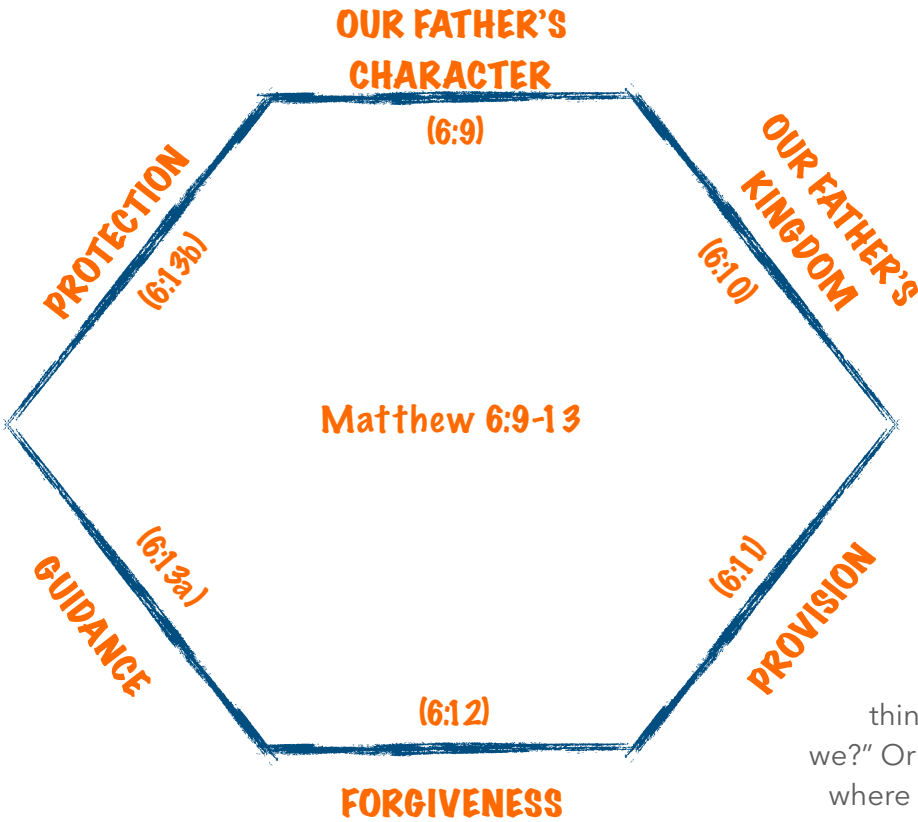




Have you ever tried to pray? Does prayer frustrate you or seem ineffective?

Did you know that when the disciples had the chance to ask Jesus for one thing, they asked Jesus to teach them to pray? Let's learn how Jesus thought about prayer to His Father. **Simply draw a hexagon...**



Who does Jesus pray to? It may sound basic but it's so important...

Jesus' starting point for prayer is the character of our Father. In fact, just after teaching this way of praying, Jesus stresses just how good this Father is at anticipating and providing for our needs (Mt. 6:25-34). Our Father is a good gift giver who gives what we need most (Lk. 11:11-13). So how does our Father's character change your ideas on prayer? What do you feel now about praying effectively or getting an answer?

Jesus prays that God's kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. How do you think God's will is done in heaven?

Do you think there's a delay? Any question of "do we, don't we?" Or does it get done perfectly? Heaven is the place where God's will is worked out perfectly. So not only is your Father good, He's the King and His will for you will be accomplished! How does this change your outlook on prayer? What about the way you'll pray?

Jesus teaches to pray for provision...

Because we trust in God's provision for us, Jesus teaches us to pray for all our physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Do you trust God with yours?

Jesus teaches to pray for forgiveness...

He even pins our forgiveness of others to how God will forgive us. How do you offer forgiveness to others? How would you feel if God offered you the same measure of forgiveness that you've offered to others? Who do you need to forgive right now?

Jesus teaches to pray for guidance and protection... But He seems utterly focused on God sending us into the world to do His Kingdom work well and to resist temptations to do evil. How does His prayer compare to yours?

How does Jesus' way of praying compare to yours? There's what you think you believe and then what you really believe...do your prayers reflect something "less than true" of God and His Kingdom? When issues arise, do your prayers look for the situation to change but leave out your character transforming in the situation? Jesus sees prayer as *the* way of aligning our whole being with what's true of God and life in His Kingdom. Is that your view or does something need to change?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND INTENTIONAL ACTION

**WHICH OF THE 6 SIDES DO YOU PRAY FROM/FOR MOST? WHICH DO YOU NEGLECT?
HOW DOES JESUS' EXAMPLE CHALLENGE YOUR HABIT OF PRAYER?**

**WHEN YOU PRAY, WHAT'S IN YOUR MIND – IS IT A GOOD FATHER WHO'S THE KING?
WHAT WOULD HELP CHANGE YOUR MINDSET IN PRAYER?**

**WHEN YOU PRAY, WHAT'S YOUR GOAL – IS IT TO CHANGE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES OR TRANSFORM
YOUR CHARACTER? HOW DO YOU PRAY GOD'S KINGDOM BREAKS INTO OUR WORLD?**

**THINK OF SOMEONE OR SOMETHING YOU KNOW NEEDS PRAYER, HOW CAN YOU PRAY
GOD'S KINGDOM ADVANCES IN THAT NEED? CAN WE PRACTICE TOGETHER NOW?**

**THINK ABOUT WHAT SCRIPTURES INFORM YOUR PRAYERS RIGHT NOW.
DO ANY COME TO MIND? WHAT SCRIPTURES MAY BE HELPFUL TO MEMORIZE AND PRAY**

ADDITIONAL HELP AND RESOURCES

- WANT SOME HELP TURNING ANY SCRIPTURE INTO YOUR PRAYER? -

Read and Ask: Read and ask: What do I learn about God? Because that's true of Him, what should be true for me.

Then Pray: That your inner person (mind, heart, will, spirit) truly understands, believes, and is changed by that reality.

And Pray: That the Holy Spirit helps you portray this about God accurately to others as well. What you see in Him should be seen in you. The Holy Spirit can renovate your heart and bring this out of to others!

- WANT NEXT STEPS TO GROW IN HOW YOU PRAY SCRIPTURE REGULARLY? -

Memorize Scriptures like: Mt.6:9-13; Psalm 23 or 139; Col. 1:9-14; Eph. 1:15-23 or 3:14-21; Rom. 8:12-17; 26-39

Learn from Others: Who do you know that prays and you consistently hear Scripture come out? Learn from them!

- NEED HELP STARTING THE CONVERSATION? -

Try asking about prayer or "How are your prayer conversations with God?" then simply point to Jesus:

"Have you considered how Jesus prayed? It's changed how I think about prayer too. Can I show you?"