

Discussion Questions

- Which one is harder for you to believe: that God is able to help you? Or that God is ready to help you?
- Do you have the faith to come to God as Father and trust Him to hear you as His child?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Let's look at the preface to the Lord's prayer one more time. It says "Our Father in heaven." This subtle reminder points to the fact that Christianity is not purely individual. God is not only *my* Father, He is *our* Father. There is a corporate aspect to this prayer that teaches us to pray with and for others. Jesus said...*Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them* (Matthew 18:19–20). This does not mean you can't pray alone, but we should want to pray with others as well. James 5:26 says...*confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.* When praying to our Father, we should also pray for others. *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people (1 Timothy 2:1).* Don't forget to pray for others around you and even for people you have never met such as the exhortation in Hebrews 13:3, *Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them.* Christ is our example as we seek to pray with and for others. In John chapter 17, generally called the high priestly prayer, Jesus intercedes for us!

Discussion Questions

- What significance do you see in praying to "our Father in heaven" rather than "my Father in heaven"?
- Outside of church on Sundays, how often do you pray together with other believers?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, November 2nd, 2025)

Baptist Catechism Question #107

- Q:** What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us?
- A:** *The preface of the Lord's prayer, which is Our Father which art in heaven, teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When you begin a new book, do you ever read the preface? Or do you skip it and go straight to the first chapter? Although often overlooked, the purpose of a preface is to give important background information and context that will help the reader understand the rest of the book. This week’s catechism question refers to the “preface” to the Lord’s prayer. Those first few words set the tone for everything that follows, and we can learn a lot from them. The preface of the Lord’s prayer says...*Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven”* (Matthew 6:9). The first thing we learn is who we are to pray to: our Father in heaven. This can be a hard concept for many people. When unbelievers have negative associations with their earthly father, it can distort their concept of God. We must look to scripture if we want to rightly understand God as our *Father*. He is the creator God who made all of us, whether we know Him or not. Malachi 2:10 *Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?* Through the sin of Adam, humans broke this relationship with God our Father, but He had a plan. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived and died in perfect obedience to restore that relationship for those who call on Him in faith. Romans 10:13 *For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* Because of Jesus, we can cry out to God, our Abba! Father! (Romans 8:15)

Discussion Questions

- What kinds of relationships do people have with their earthly fathers, and how might this affect their view of God?
- How important is it that we have an accurate understanding of who we are praying to?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Like the address on an envelope, the preface to the Lord’s prayer gives us a name but also a location: our Father in heaven. John 4:24 reminds us that *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth*. The children’s catechism simply states it like this...Q: What is God? A: God is a Spirit, and does not have a body like men. This means God is not limited by space, time, or matter. We often use the word omnipresent to mean God is everywhere at the same time. God is not confined to a body like we are, nor is He confined to just one location. Can you be at home and in someplace like Bulgaria at the same time? No, but God can be everywhere at once. Scripture sometimes uses expressions such as the hand of God or the eyes of the Lord, but these are human ways of describing God and his actions so that we can comprehend them rather than literal descriptions of his form. In the incarnation, Jesus took on flesh and became fully man that we might see God clearly. Colossians 1:15 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.* God is still omnipresent, but the preface to the Lord’s prayer emphasizes His power by addressing Him on his throne in heaven. *Thus says the LORD: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool”* (Isaiah 66:1).

Discussion Questions

- How does it affect your prayers when you remember God is on His heavenly throne?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

God is our Father, and He reigns from heaven. What else can we learn from the preface to the Lord’s prayer? First, it teaches us how to approach God with both reverence and confidence. When a child is frightened or unsure about something, what do they instinctively do? They look to their parents and often draw closer to them. They are looking for reassurance and protection when they do that. If God is our Father, and we belong to him as a child, then we ought to do the same thing. By prayer, we turn to God with a desire to draw near to Him. God invites us to do this very thing. James 4:8 *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.* We can draw near and find assurance because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. Hebrews 10:22 *let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.* We have confidence in what God has done and that we have been cleansed from our sin. Hebrews also tells us...*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need* (Hebrews 4:16). Praise God that He hears our prayers, takes care of our needs, and invites us to serve Him.

Discussion Questions

- When you are unsure or afraid, is your first impulse to draw near to God?
- Do you tend to pray with confidence? Why or why not?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When we pray to God as “our Father in heaven,” one of the joys we are reminded of is that we have been adopted as His children and we benefit from that relationship. The beginning of Ephesians speaks of adoption in this way...*even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will* (Ephesians 1:4–5). God created us, called us, loved us first, and if we have placed our faith in Jesus we have the privilege of being called the children of God. John 1:12 says, *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.* Christians enjoy benefits as children including his care, protection, discipline for our good, love and mercy and attention, too. It is why we can cite our memory verse with great joy and confidence...Romans 8:15 *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”*