

The Lord's Prayer: Father

As preached on Sunday, August 28th

Read: Luke 11:1-4

1. Is it easier for you to pray formally (scripted prayers and prescribed formulas) or informally (as the Spirit leads)? Why do you think this is?
2. How do you imagine God responding to you as you come to him in prayer?
3. Take a moment to think through the relationship that you had, or currently have, with your earthly father. Do you think the nature of that relationship has affected the relationship that you have with your Heavenly Father? In what ways?
4. In Luke 11:2 Jesus teaches his disciples to begin their prayer to God by addressing him as "Father". Our English word "father" doesn't fully capture the intimacy implicit in the Aramaic word "Abba" that Jesus chose. Can you think of a word that does? How do you refer to God when you pray?
5. Read Romans 8:14-17 and 1 John 3:1-3. As Christians we've become more than simply members of God's church, we've become children of our Heavenly Father! How does it make you feel to read about this reality in these verses?
6. Take a moment to read through Hebrews 4:14-16. Jesus served as our High Priest when he died on the cross for us. What did his death provide for us in terms of our intimacy with God? Do you feel the freedom to approach God with confidence? Why or why not? How can we balance that confidence with a proper respect for God?
7. How can it change your regular practice of prayer to know that God is always accessible, always interested, and always pleased to commune with you?