

The Lord's Prayer - Adult SS - Lesson 2: Hallowed Be Your Name

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[0:00] We're continuing looking at the Lord's Prayer this half term.! And remember, you can think of the Lord's Prayer as Jesus teaching us the essentials of the Christian life.

! The things that are most important to the Christian life. Jesus is saying to us, just in this Lord's Prayer, that this is what you should prioritise and desire in the Christian life.

So remember, we thought, what is prayer? Just think about what is prayer. It is us, his disciples, the children of God, coming to our Father, bringing our desires, our needs, our praise.

And so prayer is bringing our desires to God, what we want, what is most important. And if you think about it, our desires can be all over the place, can't they?

We can prioritise and we can want all sorts of things in the Christian life. But Jesus is teaching us here, this is what you should desire.

[1:05] This is what is essential. So he's not only teaching us how to actually pray, which he is. I hope by the end of this half term we will grow in our prayer life.

We will know how to pray better because of this. But Jesus, he's also teaching us what matters most in the Christian life by teaching us how to pray.

So the Lord's Prayer, do you remember what I said last week? It's kind of like a mini zoo. And you can walk around this mini zoo and you can see kind of all the important teachings of the Christian life.

It's like a zoo of doctrines. And that's what we're looking at this term and next half term and after Christmas.

We're going to be looking at the essentials of the Christian life. So next half term we'll look at the Apostles' Creed and then we're going to look at the Ten Commandments after Christmas. And all these things are the essentials of the Christian life.

[1:59] We're in the Lord's Prayer for this half term. And today we're looking at the next line and it's, Hallowed be your name. So last week we looked at our Father in Heaven.

And today I want us to just to focus on this line, Hallowed be your name. But before we dive in, let's just pray this together. So Jesus said, pray then like this.

Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen. So just have a look at that second line. Hallowed be your name.

[3:00] This is the first petition of the Lord's Prayer. The first thing we ask for in the Lord's Prayer. So remember you can divide the Lord's Prayer into three parts.

So last week we saw the first line, it's the address. It's who we pray to. We're not asking for anything there. We are kind of addressing God in that prayer. And then the next two lines, can you see, are petitions about God.

We are asking things about God. And then after that, it's petitions for us. Asking things specifically about us. And today we begin the first of all the petitions.

And this is asking God for something about God. We are asking that this is a request, asking him for something.

We are asking, Lord, please, hallowed be your name. So again, we are in the God part of the zoo. And Jesus is teaching us something about God here.

[4:04] Two things in particular that I want to see today. Jesus is showing us God's big purpose in the world. And he's also showing God's desire for our lives.

And this is what this petition shows us. So it's teaching us how to pray. But it's showing something, the essentials of the Christian life. And so the first thing I want us to see is this. God's big purpose for the world in this petition.

So let's just understand what each of these words mean here. Because we often don't use words like these outside of the Lord's Prayer. So let's just have a think. What is God's name?

God's name is who God is. God's name, you can think of, it's just the sum, the total, of all of God's character and all that he does in this world.

So look at Psalm 111. He sent redemption to his people. He has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. So God in himself, he is holy and awesome.

[5:10] And so his name is simply who he is. And look at Isaiah 50. Let him who walks in darkness and has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

So to trust in the name of the Lord, do you see, is to rely on God. Because God's name is who God is. Okay. So it's not just the actual letters of his name we are talking about.

We are talking about just God. When we speak God's name, we are speaking about God. But it also means a little bit more than that. God's name is also who God is known as.

It's his reputation, his fame. That's one way you can remember it. God's name is God's fame. God's name is God's fame. So look at Ezekiel 20. But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations.

So in Ezekiel, the nations thought that the Lord was a small God, that he wasn't very holy, that he's not very powerful, that he didn't really care about his people and couldn't really do much about them.

[6:22] That was the nation's view of God, his reputation. And so God says here he's going to act to change that view for the sake of his name, for the sake of his reputation, his fame.

And that's why we even use that. So when someone's reputation has been smeared, we say their name has been dragged through the mud, don't we?

Their reputation has been ruined. It's not right. So God's name is simply who he is and the reputation of who he is, his fame.

Okay, so that's God's name. What does hallowed mean? Hallowed, it means to be recognized as holy or holified.

I'll explain that in a second. So hallowed, we don't really use this word at all, do we? Hallowed, it comes from the word holy. You can even see, I broke down the Greek a little bit, if you're interested in the Greek.

[7:20] So it comes from, so the word hallowed is hagiastheto. And hagios in Greek just means holy, right? So you can even see hagias is a bit like hagios.

It comes from the word holy. And so it kind of literally means holified, to treat something as holy. And what does holy mean? Holy means set apart.

So the opposite of holy is, I asked the kids at Swansea this question, so don't answer this, kids, if you remember me asking this.

Think in your heads, what is the opposite of holy? Think in your heads, what is the opposite of holy? I think our first instinct, so the opposite of holy is sinful.

I think that's probably our first instinct, maybe not. Ah, see, Rory Shade, he's like, no, no, no, no. I was in Swansea. No, the opposite of holy is common. The opposite of holy is common.

[8:21] And so holy means set apart from the common. So think of the Sabbath day is made, it is, God considers it holy, right?

So Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, they are common days. But Sunday, the Sabbath, that is holy, right? Think of the tabernacle, right? Like other places in the world are common, right?

You know, that field over there is common. But the tabernacle is considered holy. It's set apart. It is a place like no other, right? And so when we pray, hallowed be your name, we are saying, Lord, please, would who you are, your name, your fame, would it not be treated as common, but as holy, as different, as other?

Lord, we ask, would the whole world see God as he really is? Which is the same as desiring to glorify God, for God to be glorified.

So now just think about glorifying God, okay? So to hallow his name is to glorify God. So I just now want us to think about glorifying God. I think that's a helpful way to get into this.

[9:41] So when we glorify God, or God glorifies himself, it's not that God is getting more glory in himself. It's not like he had less glory and he kind of needs topping up a little bit, okay?

It's not that. No, to glorify God is to recognize him and treat him as glorious and worthy. So you can think of it like this.

So God, okay, God is glorious in himself, right? He has perfect glory, right?

No more, no less, it's perfect. It cannot be added to, it cannot be taken away. God is 100% more, he's infinitely, perfectly glorious, right? He has glory.

And in creation, which is this circle down here, this is all things creation down here. In creation, God has revealed his glory.

[10:46] So he reveals, he reveals who he is, how glorious he is, how great he is.

He reveals that in creation. So that's his fame, right? We can know how glorious he is here and he reveals his glory in creation.

His fame is known in creation. And in creation, we can glorify, we can recognize that glory, which is to say we glorify him.

And so, in a way, it's kind of recognizing and reflecting that glory that he's revealed to us, kind of back to God.

So when we glorify God, we are kind of recognizing and reflecting his glory back to him.

[11:46] And we can do that in praise, in obedience, in worship, in thankfulness, right? It is saying, yes, you are glorious, God. And so notice, God isn't getting any more glorious in himself here.

We are just recognizing how glorious he is. And we can do that in creation, we can do that more or less, actually. So you can say some arrows are big, some we can really recognize how glorious he is.

We can be really thankful, or sometimes we cannot. Sometimes the arrows can be very small and we don't glorify God that well at all. And when that happens, again, God is not more or less, he's not less glorious when that happens.

But we just don't recognize him as we should. And so, but God is glorious either way.

And so, you can think of God's name in the same way, right? So God, his name is who he is, right?

[12:56] His name is his glory, right? So God, his name is who he is. And he reveals his name in creation.

He reveals just who he is, his glory, in creation. He reveals his fame. And how are we meant to respond to that? We are to hallow his name.

Another same kind of principle as glorifying. We are to hallow his name. And again, you can hallow it more or less. And so God is glorious and perfectly holy in himself.

That's his name, the glory of his name. And we can recognize that hallow it. And in the Lord's Prayer, we are asking that the world, we and the whole world would recognize who God is.

Hallow his name. And reflect and recognize his glory properly. So you can think of creation.

Creation is meant to be like a mirror.

[14:02] So God shines his glory, shines who he is, down onto creation. And creation is meant to be a mirror to kind of reflect it. Or you can think of the sun, right?

So the sun is bright in itself, right? We can't add to the brightness of the sun. But the sun shines on earth. And we can know the brightness and the power of the sun by seeing that light hit us all around us, right?

And sometimes we can try and shut out the light. And sometimes we can reflect it very well. But the sun is shining either way. That's a bit like how you can think of God's glory or when he reveals himself, right?

Does that make sense? I'll just pause there for a second. Does that make sense? God's glory, his name, hallowing, glorifying. Okay.

Well, Jesus is teaching us here. He's teaching this as the first petition. Because Jesus is saying, in the Christian life, this is number one.

[15:11] This is the number one desire we should have. It is God's glory. The thing that matters most in the world is that God is recognized and treated as he should be.

So not treated as common, not treated as irrelevant, but as holy and glorious and God. And remember, Jesus is shaping our desires here.

So this isn't always our desire. Remember, the arrows can be big and small or sometimes the arrows cannot exist at all. This isn't always our desire. This isn't the world's desire.

But he's teaching us that this is what should be our ultimate desire. Because actually, this is God's ultimate desire.

For his name to be hallowed. Jesus, in this prayer, he's aligning our desires with God's desire. And I want us to see that.

[16:14] I want us to see in what ways that this is God's great desire. And I want us to see that by asking, by saying, why does God do anything in this world?

Right? What is his purpose behind all that he is doing here in creation? And so I want you to break out in groups. I've got A to I.

Quite a few questions there. I think you can work quite quickly through them. There aren't any trick questions. If you find the answer, say it, move on. And just figure out what is God's big purpose behind all his actions in the world.

Lots of different actions there. Break out in groups. I'll give you a few minutes for that. Work quite quickly. Okay. Okay. Okay. Okay. Okay.

Yeah. Yeah.

[18:31] Yeah. Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

[22:07] Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Let's wrap it up there. Don't worry if you haven't finished. We'll go through them all. So let's, don't be shy. Just shout out some of your thoughts.

So we're looking at what is God's big purpose in the world. Okay, so let's think about creation. What is creation designed to do? Say it again.

Just shout it nice and clear. Yeah, yeah. The heavens declare the glory of God, right? Creation itself is designed to bring glory to God.

[23:29] It's meant to be like a mirror reflecting how glorious God is. He is, he's the creator. Look at his handiwork. Look how powerful he is and wise he is and mighty is to do all of this.

Creation is designed to have all these arrows pointing out perfectly, saying God is glorious. He is the creator. And what did God make man to be?

Got to think a little bit on this one. How does it relate to glory as well? What are some of your thoughts? Ollie, go on.

What are some of your thoughts? Well, you know, we're just thinking creation because we're made in an image. Uh-huh. Which gives us value and it makes us glory bearers. We bear the image of God. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And we always fall well short of that.

And yet through our salvation, we can bring glory to them through our salvation, through our sanctification.

[24:30] Excellent. So we reflect something of God in a way that creation doesn't. Yeah, yeah.

Yeah, that's great. So, well, you're thinking a little bit ahead to salvation. So don't think about salvation for a sec.

Just think about how we are created. Like, think about Adam. We are created to be images of God. Kind of like mirrors. Reflecting who he is.

Right? So not actually God, but like a mirror kind of gives an image, a reflection, a representation of who God is. That is what we are meant to be.

So all of creation is meant to show how glorious God is. But man, humanity in particular, is meant to show how glorious God is.

And we can do that in our knowledge of God, in our obedience to him, in our dominion over the earth, in our righteousness and our holiness. Okay? That's how God has made man to be.

[25:25] So if all of creation is a mirror, man is meant to be kind of like a, what's that? How would you do this in physics? Like a magnified mirror. Right? We're like an intensified lens where you really see God's glory.

Right? Ruben even preached this a few weeks ago. Man is the image and glory of God. Why does God provide for the whole world? Why does he give food and rain and keep us living and give us just so many nice things in creation?

As a witness to himself. As a witness to himself. Exactly. As a way of letting people know his name, who he is. Particularly his goodness.

For he did good. It was a good witness to him. Why does God judge the nations? Jesus. Ezekiel. So that they would know he is the Lord.

Go on, Alison. Are you going to say that? So they would know his name. Yeah. Know his name. He wants to manifest his glory among them. That they will know that he is the God in charge.

[26 : 39] He's the righteous one. He's holy. I manifest my holiness in her. You can't just get away with your evil. Similarly, why did God make Pharaoh? For this very purpose, I've raised you up to show my power so that my name, my fame might be proclaimed in all the earth.

Again, I am the powerful one, not you, Pharaoh. That's why he raised Pharaoh up. That's why that history turned out the way it did. In Ezekiel 36, God promises to give his people a new heart and save us.

Why? Yeah. Indicate the holiness of my great name.

Yeah, there you go. Indicate the holiness of my great name. It's to hallow his name, to know that he is a God like no other. He is holy. He cares about his people.

And he is wonderfully gracious. Which links to our next question. Why did Christ shed his blood? This was to show God's righteousness.

[27 : 50] So the cross and salvation, it shows lots of things. But in particular, well not in particular, one of those things, it displays God's righteousness. God doesn't just pass over sin.

He must punish sin. And our sin has been punished in Christ. And that shows God is a righteous God. He's not more righteous because of that. But he is the fame of his righteousness.

It's known on the cross. And why does God want the gospel preached? So that, this is a little bit trickier, so that through the church, as the gospel is preached and people are saved, he does that so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

It's actually, it's talking about angels. God saved you so that the angels would know just how wise God is.

You can imagine the angels looking down on your salvation, being like, God is incredibly wise. Look how he saved that boy, that girl, that man, that woman.

[28 : 58] It displays to all, even to the heavenly places, who he is. And so why did God choose to save sinners? This is a wonderful summary of everything.

In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace. He did all of this so that the glory of his grace, just how incredible his grace is, would be praised.

It's his name. It's his fame. So can you see that all that God does in this world, he has one big purpose behind it all, to glorify himself. So that the world would recognize his greatness, his fame. And that is to say, God does all things to hallow his name. It's just Romans 11. For from him and through him and to him are all things to him be glory forever.

And this is the big purpose of why creation exists at all. This is all, all of this is meant to recognize and reflect God's glory.

[30 : 11] John Calvin put it really well. He says, creation is a theater of divine glory. So this, what we are in right now, we are in a theater designed for God's glory to fill it.

And his name, who he is, to be recognized and praised and treated as holy. So why is creation exist? It's so that these arrows can be big and huge and point out and glorify God.

And at the center stage of this theater is salvation. Christ stands at the center of this theater, the center stage.

And this is where God is not only recognized as creator, but as our redeemer. And we really see who God is in salvation. We see our God.

He not only created this, our God is gracious and merciful and righteous. And he saves sinners. And we recognize that when we hallow his name.

[31 : 18] And so Jesus says, this needs to be your number one desire, because this is God's number one desire. It's why he does anything at all. And so before we ask for anything else in the

How about Romans 3? What did you see in that? We talked about the Third Amendment, actually. Taking the Lord's name in vain.

Even connecting it to the Aaronic blessing. And number six, how the Lord has placed his name upon us. And so we represent, we glorify God, by association with his name.

So in Romans 3, God's blasphemy amongst the Gentiles. So in a way, it's actually very broad and square with that Third Amendment. As it works out, your entire life and conduct and speech and everything that you do as a Christian, as a little Christ, is taking his name in vain.

[39:22] It's not hallowing or blessing and glorifying him. Not just simply in the way you use the Lord. It's not easy. He places his name upon us as his people. Yeah. Yeah, but that's really helpful.

Yeah, but the Third Commandment isn't just about swearing and using, say, OMG or something like that. It is that, but it's also more than that. We have the Lord's name imprinted on us, right?

We belong to the Lord. We carry his name, his fame around with us. And so Romans 3, it is talking about God's people here. It's talking about the Jews. And law-breaking, a lawless life, whilst also having God's name, it brings his reputation, it drags his name through the mud, doesn't it, right?

The name of God is blasphemed because of you, right? It shows a disdain for who God is. It shows he's not very holy. It's a disrespect to the lawgiver.

It doesn't image the righteousness of God, does it? And that is true for all the world, all law-breaking, but particularly in God's people, because we particularly bear his name.

[40:31] And Psalm 2, it kind of, it just goes global, doesn't it, right? How does the world not hallow God's name? It's pride, rebellion, opposing God and his rule, opposing King Jesus, who is the King of Kings.

And so, what do the nations do? We hallow our own names instead, right? And we do this individually and we do this on a global scale and national scale.

And so, when we pray, hallowed be your name, we are praying that the nations and the leaders would hallow God's name. And we pray that about the assisted suicide bill, right?

Praying, praying for that, was praying that our MPs would hallow God's name. And so, that's kind of thinking the negative side. Let's think a bit more positively. In what ways can we hallow God's name then?

Right? So, it's all implied in the opposites of the first question. But kind of positively, how can we hallow God's name and give him glory? Matthew 5. Through our good works, we probably can suddenly shrink from but actually as we do good works and obedience and gratitude to God and people will see that along the way we should describe that to actually on good works because because of God not because of ourselves that will give glory to God it will shine a light for us.

[42:07] Yeah, yeah, absolutely. It's there in John 15 as well. It's by that you bear much fruit that my Father is glorified. Right? So it's in our distinctness being salt and light in this world by bearing much fruit is our holiness our godliness holding out hope to the world salt and light is also that distinctness that brings glory to God it hallows his name it shows just how glorious God is that people see what God is like through his people we are like a lens that people see God through and so hallowing God's name it means transform our lives so that we reflect that 1 Peter 4 is the same it's in our love for each other our forgiveness of one another it shows the love and grace of God to the world and then Psalm 34 magnify the Lord with me magnify it may it's not like a microscope microscope makes what is small seem bigger but magnifying magnifying sorry magnifying it's more like a telescope right so like looking at a galaxy through a telescope it seems small to us but it's actually unimaginably unimaginably big right that's what we want

God to be in our lives you are unimaginably big make that be known how big you are and that's worship right how do we hallow his name in worship is what we're going to do this morning and so praying hallowed be your name we are asking for the God's fame the greatness of who he is to be known in our own hearts in our words in our lives in the church it is praying for sanctification protection unity fruit so that creation we reflect him as he deserves but we also we're praying for the world here as well this is an evangelistic prayer not only that evil would be avoided but people would repent and hallow God's name and so this is a comprehensive prayer we are asking that in whatever events unfold in our lives this thing that's coming up that I'm worried about I may not know what's coming I may not understand why or how this is playing out but Lord in everything would it all glorify you

Jesus is ordering our desires to make that number one and so this is what is most essential in the Christian life and just to finish I want us to realize asking this is for our good I just want to end on

this quick thought so we might be tempted to think that this is it's all about God and just nothing about us like God has to get the glory but we just kind of have to put up with it and the Christian life is just kind of dreary and we're just getting dragged along just doing whatever God wants but no I want to see God's glory is our happiness because just think back to why we are made what is our main purpose in life to glorify God which means we are most human we are most fulfilled and we are most happy when we glorify God so remember the shorter catechism we've got it there for you what is the chief end of man what's the chief purpose the main purpose of man man's chief end is to glorify

God and to enjoy him forever so do you see glorifying God and our joy they go together sin not hallowing God's name that brings the misery and the problems and the worries that's when we don't do what we're designed for that's like a car driving into water that's not what it's designed for and so it ends up in a disaster but our lives are better truly fulfilled truly true happiness when we hallow God's name in fact the whole world is a better place when God's name is hallowed our good is his glory his glory is our good this is the meaning and purpose of creation and salvation and so praying this Jesus is teaching us this is actually the meaning of life this is what matters most in the Christian life and all of life our father in heaven hallowed be your name sorry I ran over we won't do questions let's just come to me for questions after let's just end by praying this together pray then like this our father in heaven hallowed be your name your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven give us today our daily bread forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for yours is the kingdom the power and the glory forever and ever amen away