

Small Group Guide: THE LORD'S PRAYER: WORDS YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW - Everyday Lordship

Opening Question: When you were a kid, what was something you absolutely had to control (the TV remote, the car radio, who sat where, etc.)? How about now—what's your “remote control” you guard as an adult?

Opening Prayer: *Lord, thank you for bringing us together. As we talk about surrender, control, and your will, help us be honest with you and with each other. Teach us what it means to truly pray, “Your kingdom come, your will be done,” not just with our mouths but with our lives. Calm our anxieties, open our hearts, and guide our discussion by your Spirit. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

KEY SERMON POINTS

Main Ideas

1. **The Lord's Prayer is meant to be lived, not just recited.** “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” is not just a phrase—it's a lifestyle of daily surrender.
2. **Stress often reveals a conflict with God's will.** Unexplainable pain; Uncooperative people; Uncontrollable circumstances — These often drive us to try to control more, but that usually increases stress, not peace.
3. **Serenity comes through surrender.** The only real solution to inner peace is not more control, but letting go before God: “Be still [let go] and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).
4. **Surrender is active obedience, not passive giving up.** Giving up is hopelessness; surrender is a choice of trust. It says, “God, I'm placing this in your hands because I believe you are Father and you are good.”
5. **Contentment is learned and is deeply spiritual.** Paul “learned” to be content in all circumstances (Philippians 4:11–13). Contentment is not natural; it's a spiritual discipline empowered by Christ.
6. **We don't primarily need explanations; we need God's presence.** In suffering or confusion, knowing “why” usually doesn't satisfy. What we truly need is to experience God with us—even when circumstances don't change.
7. **Surrender is tied to obedience and blessing.** Psalm 37 reminds us that those who obey and surrender to the Lord will be sustained, even in disaster or famine. Obedience doesn't make life perfect, but it positions us under God's care.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Matthew 6:9-10.**
 - When you honestly pray, which comes more naturally: “my kingdom, my will be done” or “Your kingdom, Your will be done”?
 - What are some examples of “my kingdom” prayers that sneak into your prayer life?
2. **Read Psalm 46:10.** Pastor Dan shared that “be still” can carry the idea of “let go.”
 - What does “letting go” practically look like for you in an area where you're feeling stressed?
 - What fears come up when you think about actually letting go of control in that area?
3. **Read Philippians 4:11–13.**
 - Paul says twice that he “learned” to be content. What do you think that learning process looked like for him?
 - Where in your life do you need to **learn** contentment right now (finances, relationships, health, career, etc.)?
4. **Pastor Dan mentioned three big stress sources:** Unexplainable pain; Uncooperative people; Uncontrollable circumstances

- Which of these three do you relate to most in this season, and how do you usually respond—by trying to control more, or by giving up?
 - What would surrender look like in that specific situation?
5. **Pastor Dan distinguished between “giving up” (pity party, etc.) vs. true surrender.**
 - In your own words, how would you explain the difference between **giving up** and **surrendering to God**?
 - Have you ever hit “rock bottom” and discovered surrender there? What changed when you finally surrendered?
 6. **We naturally want “more” and “now.” Our culture feeds that.**
 - Where do you feel the strongest pull to be discontent (money, possessions, status, success, life stage, etc.)?
 - How might regularly praying, “Your will be done,” begin to reshape your expectations and desires in that area?
 7. **Serenity Prayer & Real-Life Acceptance:** The Serenity Prayer says, “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change... and the wisdom to know the difference.”
 - Name one thing in your life that you cannot change but still fight against internally.
 - What specific step could you take this week to move from resisting that reality to accepting it before God, trusting His will?
 8. **Read Psalm 37:7, 18–19.**
 - How have you seen a connection between obeying God (even when it’s hard) and experiencing His peace?
 - Is there any clear area of obedience God is nudging you about (forgiveness, generosity, integrity, relationships, etc.) that you’re resisting?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS (Choose 1 or 2 that apply to you.)

1. **Name and Surrender One Area of Control.** Identify one specific thing you’re trying to control (a person, outcome, timeline). Each day this week, pray: *“Father, Your kingdom come, Your will be done in this area of my life. I release it to You.”*
2. **Practice “Be Still” Moments.** Set aside 5–10 minutes a day to sit quietly before God—no phone, no noise, no asking—just being. Repeat Psalm 46:10 (“Be still and know that I am God”) and intentionally let go of one worry.
3. **Rewrite a “My Kingdom” Prayer.** Take a recent prayer request you’ve been praying for your own will, and rewrite it as a surrender prayer. For example: From *“God, fix this my way, now”* To *“God, I’d love to see this happen, but more than that, I want your will to be done. Help me trust your timing and your plan.”*
4. **Memorize Philippians 4:13 in Context.** Memorize Philippians 4:11–13, not just verse 13. All week, when you feel discontent or anxious, quote it and remind yourself: “Through Christ, I can *learn* contentment in this situation.”
5. **Invite Accountability for an Obedience Step.** Share with one trusted person in the group an area where you know you need to obey God but are resisting. Ask them to pray for you and check in with you this week as you take a concrete step of obedience.

MEMORY VERSE for the Week:

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”
(Psalm 46:10, NIV)

Closing Prayer: *Father, thank you for what you've shown us tonight. We confess that we often want our kingdom and our will instead of yours. Please help us to trust you enough to let go—of people we can't control, situations we don't understand, and futures we can't predict. Teach us, like Paul, to learn contentment in every circumstance, and to find our peace in your presence more than in explanations. As we go into this week, remind us to pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done," and to live it out. Protect us, guide us, and use us to reflect Jesus to the people around us. In Jesus' name, amen.*