

Thornbury Baptist Church  
Small Group Discussion Questions

**Talk Date:** May 25th 2025

**Talk title:** Jesus on Prayer – The Holy Father

**Passage:** Matthew 6:9

**Speaker:** Katie Fry

Katie has provided two possible approaches for following up her talk. The first is a selection of Bible discussion questions based on the talk. The second approach picks up on Katie's insight into how knowing God as a Trinity can enrich our times of prayer, by looking at two passages in John's Gospel.

**Discussion Questions - Approach 1**

1) How does your personal experience with your earthly father affect the way you view and relate to God as Father? What helps you to reframe that view in light of who God has revealed himself to be (see Psalm 145:8-21 for example)? (If this question is a bit personal for your group, you could reframe it in more general terms).

2) What difference does it make to know that we are not just praying to a fatherly God, but to our actual Father through adoption in Christ (1 John 3:1)? How does this truth change your attitude or confidence when you pray?

3) Katie suggested that 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 is a good description of God's loving father-heart towards us. How do the qualities listed there affect the way we meet God in prayer?

4) What do you find most challenging about prayer, and how does the help of the Holy Spirit reshape your approach to those struggles? Consider Romans 8:26-27 and the idea that the Spirit intercedes for us even when we don't have the words.

5) How can understanding the Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit—deepen your prayer life rather than make it more complicated? What practical steps can help you grow in relating to each person of the Trinity in prayer?

**Discussion Questions - Approach 2**

Read John 1:1-18 and John 17:20-26, and consider the following questions:

1) What do these passages tell us about the nature and work of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?

2) In the light of (1), what does that mean for our identity and position before God?

3) In the light of (1) and (2), what does it mean for our prayer lives?

**Takeaway**

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?