

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE INTRODUCTION

DEVOTION

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN.

What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

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!" The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:15–16)

FOR SHARING

1. Share a good memory about your father or a father figure in your life.
2. What sort of Father do you think about when you pray the words "Our Father"? How would you describe God as Father?
3. In what ways have we, as God's children, disappointed our Father in our family life and relationships?
4. We are family because the Father's one and only Son has paid the price for our redemption. What does it mean to live as brothers and sisters in Christ?
5. In Christ, we can pray with "all boldness and confidence." Share how Christ's love and forgiveness encourage you to approach God in daily prayer.

PRAYER

Abba, Father, who from heav'n above
Has told us here to live in love
And with our fellow Christians share
Our mutual burdens and our prayer,
Teach us no thoughtless word to say
But from our inmost heart to pray.

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