Pastor Dave Teixeira
January 31, 2010
Matthew 6:9-15
The Lord's Prayer

Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

So often Jesus confronts us with our "just going through the motions" type of religion, because He wants something less meaningless and more real for us. He wants something less hypocritical and more authentic. But we love rules and checked boxes. The Lord's Prayer has, for many, become the very thing Jesus was rebuking—meaningless, thoughtless words spoken out of obligation. Let's get beyond that and try to experience it the way He intends us to.

- What do you think Jesus is trying to get at in verses 7 and 8?
- Do you ever feel like if you only pray the right things to God, you'll somehow open up the magic door of His blessing? Explain.
- When Jesus talks about rambling on and on, does that relate to you or to an experience you've had with someone?

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by Your Name…
Father: closeness, care, intimacy, warmth, relationship, affection
Hallowed by Your Name: a character that's holy, separate from & above ours

- Do you tend to focus more on the hallowed, holiness of God or on Him as an intimate Father?
- How might you experience the other side of God in your life/relationships?

Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven…
This verse is the best definition of the Kingdom of Heaven Jesus preaches in the Sermon on the Mount.

- What things might change in our world, country, city, families and lives if the Kingdom came?
- Where is God calling you to be a part of bringing the Kingdom?

Give us today our daily bread…
I don't think Jesus is only talking about food here. This is a statement of trust and dependence on God to provide for all our needs TODAY.

- What do you need to trust God for today and not worry about the future?

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors…
Again, this prayer is a reminder and challenge to live out the grace we receive from God. It is a call to forgive like we have been forgiven.

- How much forgiveness do you offer people?
- Who is someone you have a hard time forgiving?

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one…
This is a statement of dependence on God, even in resisting sin and Satan.

- What are some areas of temptation for you? How can you trust God in those areas?

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins…

- Do you think this is an exaggerated statement to make a strong point?
- What is Jesus trying to say here? What does it mean to you?
- Is there anything else from the sermon this week that challenged you, bothered you, struck you or caused you to think or act?