

ADDRESS: Our Father in Heaven
OK Prayer: Session 2

QUESTION: Who do you call when you have great news to share? Or when things fall apart?

ADDRESS/"Invocation" (OT references: Gen 12:8, 24:7; Ps 136:26; Jon 1:9; Ez 1:2; Neh 1:5)

- ❖ To address God in prayer requires _____ identification of _____
& appeal to the God of the _____.



OUR FATHER (OT ref: Ex 4:22-23; Jer 2:4, 13, 3:10-19)

- ❖ To address God in prayer requires knowing His _____. (Jer 7:15, 29:10-14, 30:3, 8-9)

Jesus's Ministry: *early (before Sermon on the Mount)*

- At the Temple: JOHN 2
- At Jacob's Well: JOHN 4

HEBREW: *šāmar* (verb): to keep, observe, watch, guard = "The Keepers of the Law" (religious group)

HEBREW: *šōmrôn* (noun); named after Shemer (1 Ki 16:24) = city/region (people associated with place)

**Possible* culturally appropriate reason for multiple husbands (Jn 4:18): death of spouses, betrothal not completed: GENESIS 38*

- JOHN 4:26: Jesus said to her, "I am [He], the One speaking to you."

Legei autē ho Iēsous EGŌ EIMI ho Ialōn soi

GREEK: EGŌ EIMI = "I AM" (Ex 3:14)

"The knowledge of the Fatherhood of God, the revelation of His infinite Fatherliness in our hearts, the faith in the infinite love that gives us His Son and His Spirit to make us children, is indeed the secret of prayer in spirit and truth."¹ Andrew Murray

¹ Andrew Murray, *With Christ in the School of Prayer; Thoughts on Our Training for the Ministry of Intercession*, (Philadelphia: The Rodgers Company, n.d.). Available online at: <https://ccel.org/ccel/murray/prayer>

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT / GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Pastor John Stott says, "Our awareness of God as our Father excludes unworthy prayers."² How would it change your prayers to address God as "Heavenly Father"?
2. God's words through the prophet Jeremiah reveal the tenderness of God's heart. As you consider the context of the people's obstinate, repeated rejection and disobedience, how do these verses change your view of "the Old Testament God"?
3. Jesus taught His disciples to imitate God in their actions, attitudes, and character to identify as His children (Mt 5:44-48).
 - How did Jesus's actions at the temple demonstrate His regard for His Father's concerns?
 - How did His interaction with the Samaritan woman reveal His connection to His Father?
4. JOHN 1:14 says: "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."
 - In what ways did Jesus emphasize *grace and truth* in His conversation with the woman at the well?
 - Why is truth important in prayer?

² John Stott, "Growing in the Prayer Life" 8/20/1989, *John Stott Sermon Archive* (1989) (All Souls, Langham Place and The Literary Executors of John R. W. Stott: 2023) Mt 6:5-15. Available online at: www.allsouls.org/Groups/139680/E038_Growing_as_a_Christian.aspx