



Understanding "Our Father": Biblical Reflections on the Lord's Prayer

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The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the Our Father ?is truly the summary of the whole Gospel? (no. 2761). Catholics pray the Lord's Prayer whenever they worship at Mass and say the Rosary, and other Christians pray it frequently as well. Join Scott Hahn (accompanied by St. Cyprian, St. John Chrysostom, and St. Augustine) as he unlocks the riches of the Lord's Prayer.

Understanding "Our Father": Biblical Reflections on the Lord's Prayer Details

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From Reader Review Understanding "Our Father": Biblical Reflections on the Lord's Prayer for online ebook

Carrie says

Good insights from Scott Hahn and the Church Fathers.

Sharon says

This book might be helpful and meditative for some, but it didn't really help me see the Our Father in any new way. The second part of the book, dealing with excerpts from some of the Church Fathers, was more helpful.

Berni Phillips says

Nice, short reflection on the famous prayer. Hahn includes not only his own thoughts but also a few essays from the early Church fathers.

Albert says

It gives meaning behind the words of The Our Father It is explained both simply and through the bible and the Gospels When I pray Our Father i know or should know what it means , plus it gives some good understanding to Gods plan. I highly recommend this book to all

Barron says

I very much enjoyed this book but I did not give it 5 stars. I would have if it had stopped with Scott Hahn's discourse on the "Our Father". However, Hahn adds four chapters at the end of the book from various saints that I felt were a bit long winded and at times confusing. Don't get me wrong. They made for some interesting reading, but they did not always agree with each other on what each of the seven petitions of the Our Father meant. Perhaps Hahn intended to show differing viewpoints from them, but to me it would have been more effective to include discourses from people who reinforced his own points that he made in Part 1 of the book.

In any case, it was still a four star read, and I will no doubt read it again, probably more than once. I am a fan of Scott Hahn's writings because he takes subjects that I am interested in and opens up the scriptures and sacred Tradition to explain them in ways that I never considered before, and he does while be very clear and concise. I wouldn't mind sitting in on his Theology and Bible classes at Franciscan University of Steubenville (OH).

Melissa Henderson says

I'll probably need to review this one again at a slower pace... So much to remember, but I'm sure if I took a more focused, note-based approach I would get more out of it. Needless to say, this book decodes the genius of the prayer born from Jesus' own lips. There are a multitude of meanings packed into each separate petition.

Brenda says

Professor Hahn does a wonderful job of detailing the verses of the Lord's Prayer in this compact, to the point book. The first half of the book takes each verse and goes into the truths behind what we are praying for, while the second half contains extracts from several Saints with their take on the prayer as well. Excellently written with much knowledge.

Robert Federline says

Scott Hahn is always an interesting read. He is a thoughtful and insightful author on topics of religion. This book does not disappoint.

There is no prayer in all of Christendom more revered, and more likely to be committed to memory and to be prayed as a communal prayer, than that prayer commonly known as the "Our Father." If one studies the histories and origins of prayers, it is at once seen that they are named by the opening words of the prayer. In this instance, of course, there is another name for this prayer as well. It is referred to as the "Lord's Prayer," because it was taught to the apostles, and through holy scripture, to us today, by the Lord, Jesus, himself.

Jesus spent his earthly ministry by preaching and teaching, primarily through the vehicle of parables. He was a master story teller. He had a command of language that would make any author jealous. His parables can be understood on many different levels. This is, of course, amply demonstrated by the apostles, those who lived with Him most closely, who dealt with Him on a daily basis, and heard Him speak in terms far beyond those publicly reported in Gospels, when they ask Jesus to explain a parable He has just taught. Just as those parables may be understood on many levels, and the language simultaneously hides and reveals things, so too this most famous prayer.

Scott Hahn is, of course, a noted scholar, with his formal education culminating in a doctorate in biblical theology, as well as having published numerous books and his personal engagement in educating others in multiple forums. His insights are consistently interesting and enlightening. Even at this, however, his perspectives are still his own, and he realizes it.

His thoughts and insights into the meaning and expression of this great prayer are edifying and welcome. One of the truly great values in this book, however, is that he does not egotistically present his perspective as definitive and exclusive. Rather, he also shares with his readers the excerpts from the teachings of four early Church Fathers. I.e., Sts. Cyprian, Cyril of Jerusalem, John Chrysostom, and Augustine.

The division of this prayer into its various petitions, and the analysis of such petitions, could not be better presented in a classroom. Scott Hahn is consistently interesting in his presentation. The real value in this book, however, is in the ability to contemporaneously review and compare the perspectives of the Early Fathers on this same topic. It demonstrates the depth of meaning and the multiple levels in this tremendous prayer.

One can never know too much, because one can never know enough, about the full meaning of scriptures, and all of their teachings.

Claudia Aroni says

As a typical cradle Roman Catholic, there is so much I take for granted it. Thank you, Dr. Hahn for helping me slow down enough to look closely to the first prayer I ever learned. I finally "know" why I find the Our Father so comforting but most important praying it now has this new level of meaning and understanding.

Carolyn Keel says

****I won this through First Reads Giveaways****

I found parts of this book to be a bit... obvious. But there were other parts that were actually really interesting, and I enjoyed reading those parts.

It DID take me a while to get through it because some of the language is a bit dragging. Overall, though, it was definitely worth the time to read it.

Br. Fred Jaxheimer says

It was a good study of the topic. It was valuable in my review of the Lord's prayer for teaching a Confirmation class and also valuable for me in my Lenten journey to "live up to my prayers". It was a nice complement to Luther's Small Catechism and the reflections by Messianic Jews on the meanings and symbolism in the prayer Jesus taught the disciples to pray.
