LORD'S DAY 46

Q120. Why did Christ command us to call God "our Father"?

A. To awaken in us at the very beginning of our prayer what should be basic to our prayer—a childlike reverence and trust that through Christ God has become our Father, and that just as our parents do not refuse us the things of this life, even less will God our Father refuse to give us what we ask in faith.[1]

1. Matt. 7:9–11 – "Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for bread, would give a stone? Or if the child asked for a fish, would give a snake? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"
Luke 11:11–13 – "Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Q121. Why the words "in heaven"?

A. These words teach us not to think of God's heavenly majesty as something earthly,[1] and to expect everything needed for body and soul from God's almighty power.[2]

1. Jer. 23:23–24 – "Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord."
Acts 17:24–25, 27 – "The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things….that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us."
2. Rom. 10:12 – "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him."