



The Sermon on the Mount The Lord's Prayer

Intro Questions:

Did you grow up learning and reciting The Lord's Prayer? Do you relate to what Vera said in undervaluing the power and beauty of it?

Throughout your life have you viewed the Lord's Prayer as a powerful and clear guideline from Jesus on how we are to pray OR has it been something you memorized as a child and recited during church services without giving much thought to the meaning?

How has that changed and why or why not?

Do you struggle with daily prayer? Does the knowledge that Jesus gives us a clear way to pray give you encouragement or does that feel more challenging?

The placement of the Lord's Prayer is very intentional. In the previous passage, Jesus tells us very clearly how NOT to pray. What a gift that he then tells us very clearly how we are TO pray! In Vera's teaching, she said that it also gives us a blueprint to help us live out the Sermon on the Mount - through prayer and the Lord's help.

Let's break apart each section of the Lord's Prayer and after discussion with your Life Group or journaling on your own, pray through that line.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed Be Your Name

*Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.* - the Message

God is holy and good. We can trust in his goodness.

Praise the Lord and lift up His holy name.

Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done, On Earth as it is in Heaven

*Set the world right;
Do what's best—
as above, so below.* - the Message

Does it give you hope to know that God's kingdom WILL come and His will will NOT be thwarted?

Pray that God will show us his will for today. Ask for open ears/eyes/heart that we can see how he reveals that to us.

Give Us This Day our Daily Bread

Proverbs 30:8 *give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs.*

What do we really need? Ask God to show you. Pare it down to the basics. Daily needs. When the Israelites were in the desert God provided for them daily. What is our manna?

Pray to be content with what God has provided for you each day.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

Jesus makes it clear that we cannot separate the forgiveness we have received from the forgiveness we are called to give. We need to make it a daily habit of asking the Lord to reveal how we have sinned against Him and our neighbor. The more aware we are of our own need for forgiveness we the more freely we will extend it to others.

And when you stand praying, forgive if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven may also forgive you your sins. Mark 11:25

Which do you find harder - Receiving the forgiveness and grace the Lord gives you OR forgiving others who have wronged you?

Pray for forgiveness and ask God to help you forgive.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

God tells us to pray for protection and deliverance. There are many ways we can be tempted to draw away from God and it is often easier to avoid the more obvious "big" temptations and miss the subtle sneaky ways that Satan can get a foothold in our lives.

Pray that your heart and mind would be focused on Christ and not distracted and tempted by the things of this world. Ask God to reveal the small ways we are susceptible and ask for specific protection in those areas.

We have a great adversary in the devil, but we can stand firm knowing that he has no power over us.

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,[c] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the Glory Forever

He has conquered sin and death and we can rest in His victory! Take delight in this and end your prayer knowing that we serve a risen Lord who loves us more than we can imagine and will bring renewal to His creation.

Prepared by Megan DeMontaigne