

The Lord's Prayer

7-Part Bible Study

Lakefield Baptist Church

Winter 2014



Introduction

I think it is safe to say that prayer is the most important thing that we do as disciples of Jesus. Prayer is what helps us ‘Abide in Jesus’ (John 15:5). Prayer is how we maintain our relationship with the Triune God. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to do what He does. Henry Balckaby points out: “Prayer set the agenda for Jesus’ life and ministry.” Jesus would wake up early in the morning and go off by himself to pray (Mark 1:35). When the disciples were looking for him they knew where to find him because he had a special outdoor sanctuary that He would go too (Mark 1:37; 14:32). Whenever Jesus needed to make an important decision he would spend long hours in prayer, sometimes all night. (Matthew 4: 2; 14:23; 17:2; Mark 14:32).

It is important to see that the only thing the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to do is to pray (Luke 11:1). They may have asked him to do other things, but there is no record of it. The only request the disciples make is for Jesus to teach them how to pray. Why? Because the disciples could see that Jesus’ life flowed out of prayer: his teaching and preaching, his healing and casting out demons, his loving-joyful-peaceful-patient-kind-good-faithful-gentle-self-controlled character – Jesus’ entire life flowed out of his prayer life.

The Good News is that Jesus taught His disciples how to pray in what we now call ‘the Lord’s Prayer.’ This study has been put together to help you go deeper into the Lord’s Prayer. We will use Matthew’s version of the prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), even though Luke has a slightly modified version (Luke 11:2-4)

There are seven lines in the Lord’s Prayer: An introduction and six requests. As a church we have been working through each line since January 12th on Sunday mornings. This study was created to help facilitate further discussion among the Care Groups or used by individuals who would like to explore the Lord’s Prayer in more depth.

My hope is that as we unwrap this wonderful gift that Jesus has given to us, we will be drawn deeper into a relationship with the Triune God, and find ourselves living more and more in the reality of His kingdom. Before we begin let us pray:

“Our Father in the heavens,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,
Give us bread everyday
Forgive us for our debts as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”
Matthew 6:9-13

Table of Contents

1. Introduction to the Lord's Prayer	4.
2. Hallowed Be Your Name	5.
3. Your Kingdom Come	6.
4. Your Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven	7.
5. Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread	8.
6. Forgive Us For Our Debts As We Forgive Our Debtors	9.
7. Deliver Us From the Evil One	10.

Part 1 - Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

1. What do you find challenging about prayer?

2. Read Luke 11:1. The disciples never ask Jesus to teach them to do anything else in the Gospel's except pray, why do you think this is the case? What does this tell us about our own discipleship?

3. Look at the Lord's Prayer and how it's structured:

Introduction: Our Father in the heavens,

Six requests:

1. Hallowed be Your name,
2. Your kingdom come,
3. Your will be done,
 On earth as it is in heaven,
4. Give us this day our daily bread,
5. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
6. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one

3. How does the structure reveal about what is important to Our Father in heaven?

4. What is the center of the prayer? and why is this significant?

5. The Flow of the prayer is 'Your name,' 'Your kingdom,' 'Your will,' and then 'Give us,' 'Forgive us,' 'Lead us,' how does this teach us how to pray?

6. Jesus focuses our attention on "Our Father in the heavens"

a. What is He revealing to us about our relationship with the His Father?

b. Where are Jesus and His Father? (cross reference Acts 1:9, Ephesians 1:3; 1:20; 2:6)

c. What are Jesus and His Father doing there right now? (cross reference Revelation 4-5; Ephesians 1:20-23)

7. How does all this make you want to pray?

Part 2 – Hallowed Be Your Name

1. What is your full name and is there any significance to it that you know of?
2. What does the word ‘hallowed’ mean? What other words could we use to substitute the word ‘hallowed’?
3. What is God’s name?
4. Why do you think Jesus has “hallowed be your name” as the first request? What does this tell us about Jesus’ priorities, and the way he sees our human needs?
5. Jesus’ name means “God to the rescue” or “God saves.” What does Jesus save us from? What does Jesus save us for?

Jesus saves us from

Jesus saves us for

6. As we follow Jesus he begins to transform us. As a way of symbolizing this we are told that He gives us a new name, like he did with Simon-Peter (Isaiah 62: 2; Revelation 2:17). What do you think your new name is in Christ?
7. How does all this make you want to pray?

Part 3 – Your Kingdom Come

1. How do you understand the term ‘kingdom’?

2. What was the Jewish expectation of God’s coming Kingdom? (cross reference Isaiah 40: 3-11; 42:1-7; 53, 61, 65:17-25)

3. Read Mark 1: 9-15. What do learn from these verses about the kingdom of God?

4. Looking at Jesus’ life and ministry, how do we see the kingdom of God breaking into our world? (cross reference Matthew 13)

5. How do we participate in the coming of the kingdom? If in a small group, encourage one another to help each other see how our life and work are part of the whole.

6. On the cross Jesus took upon himself everything that separates us from the Father. There is no longer any barrier and we have been given access into the very throne room of God. The Father and the Son desire to reign in our hearts.
 - a. What would it look like for the Triune God to reign as the supreme ruler in our lives?

 - b. What do you feel the Lord is asking you to let go of in order for Him to reign?

 - c. What reservations do you have of the Lord being in control of your life?

 - d. If you are having trouble letting go of something you know the Lord is asking you to let go of, ask Him to put the desire in you to want to let it go

7. How does all this make you want to pray?

Part 4 – Your Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven

1. How would you explain the human will?

2. How do we see Jesus obeying his Father's will?

3. Do you have any reservation about knowing God's will, if yes, what are they?

4. How does Paul explain God's will in Romans 12:2 and Ephesians 1:5, 9, 11

5. What is the Father's Will?
 - a. Genesis 1:28
 - b. Genesis 12:1-3
 - c. Isaiah 61/Luke 4:18
 - d. Exodus 20 - Ten Commandments
 - e. Matthew 5-7 – the Sermon on the Mount
 - f. Matthew 28:18-20
 - g. Jeremiah 31:33-34
 - h. Ephesians 5:17-21
 - i. John 6:38-40
 - j. Ephesians 1:10

6. How does all this make you want to pray?

Part 5 – Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

1. Read the Exodus 16. The Lord tells the people to collect enough bread only for the day, why do you think he does this?

Note: Food is important in the kingdom of God. The image for the great Day of the Lord throughout the Old Testament is that of a banquet (Isaiah 25:6; Psalm 23:5). Jesus was fond of eating and drinking in people's homes to the point where he was accused of being a glutton and a drunk (Matthew 11:19). At one of these meals Jesus said "I am among you as one who serves" (Luke 22:27). Jesus sees himself as a waiter. He multiplies five loaves and 2 fish and feeds over 5000 people at one point and 4000 at another. The fact that He teaches us to pray "give us this day our daily bread" in the context of the Lord's Prayer reveals that bread is important.

2. What does Jesus mean by bread? Is he simply referring to physical bread or is he pointing to something deeper?

3. What does this prayer reveal about our physical and spiritual needs?

Physical

Spiritual

3. Jesus does not teach us to pray "Give me this day my daily bread" but "Give us this day our daily bread." How does this change the way we view human hunger?

4. How does this prayer reinforce Jesus' command in Matthew 6:33-34?

5. How does this prayer challenge the way we eat, pray, and live?

Eat

Pray

Live

Part 6 – Forgive Us Our debts...

Note: the word “debt” in Greek is not a religious term but a financial term. It means “something which is owed, something which is due, something which is a duty or an obligation to give or to pay. In other words, it means a debt in the widest sense of the term.” - William Barclay. The word “forgive” in Greek also comes from the financial world. It means to cancel, to wipe the slate clean, to erase numbers in a business ledger.

1. How many times does Jesus tell Peter to forgive his debtors in Matthew 18:21? Now read Matthew 18:23-25, what is Jesus revealing to us about the heart of God?

2. What is the debt we owe God? (cross reference: Exodus 20, Matthew 5:21-22; 27-28; 43-45)

3. How is it possible for us to be forgiven for our debts? (See Colossians 2:13-14)

4. Listen to the prayer again “Forgive us our debts **as** we also have forgiven our debtors” What is Jesus telling us by using the word ‘as’. Look at Matthew 6:14-15. What will happen if we do not forgive the debts of others? Why do you think forgiveness works this way?

Note: Lewis Smedes a Christian ethicist wrote: “To forgive is to set a prisoner free, and to discover that the prisoner is you”

5. Why is forgiving another person so difficult?

6. Forgiveness does not mean we put ourselves in dangerous situations knowing that the person who harmed us will harm us again, nor does forgiveness mean forgetting, forgiveness is a process. The way we start down is by bringing the person who harmed you to the cross and asking Jesus to forgive this person in the same way that He has forgiven you. Spend some time praying for those you feel compelled to forgive.

Part 7 – Deliver Us From The Evil One

1. Who is the ‘evil one’?

2. What is the difference between a temptation and a test?

3. What are the strategies of the evil one?

Look at:

a. Genesis 3:1-5; 2:16-17

b. Matthew 4:3-11

4. Knowing the evil ones strategies, how can we defend ourselves?

Look at Ephesians 6:10-18

- a. Who are we not struggling against and why is this significant?

- b. Who are we struggling against?

- c. What is the day of evil? (cross reference Ephesians 5:15-16)

- d. How do we stand firm against the evil one?

- e. What does Paul teach us about how to pray?

5. How does all this make you want to pray?