The Lord’s Prayer  
Lesson 3  

Truth and Equipping

“Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Purpose: Jesus is showing us how to spend time with God in prayer

Weekly Focus: Focusing our prayers on our needs instead of wants and trusting God’s daily provision.

Bible: Matthew 6:11-12, Matthew 6:25-34, Exodus 16, Matthew 18:21-35,

Context: Jesus is teaching the crowds about the Kingdom of God.  
Jesus specifically wants them to understand the importance of prayer  
Jesus tells them how they should pray.  
Jesus reminds us that God is personal (Our Father) and powerful (Who is in heaven).  
Jesus then instructs us on how we should approach God in prayer in using His Name and that prayer is an act of worship.  
Jesus then begins to give us what we should pray.  
We should first pray for God’s Kingdom and God’s will before we pray for ourselves.  
When we do pray for ourselves we need to pray for our needs and not wants.

“Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread”

Outline:
I. Give  
   a. We need God’s help and provision  
      i. We don’t pray “allow me to do it myself” but ask for Him to give to us  
      ii. Humbling to ask for help and we don’t usually like to  
   b. Can’t do it alone  
      i. We can’t take care of our deepest needs only God can
II. Us  
   a. He doesn’t tell us to say “give me this day my daily bread”  
   b. Not just out for ourselves but part of community  
      i. Called to take care of others  
         Early church shared all that they had (Acts 4:32-35)  
      ii. Called to pray for each other (James 5:16)
III. This day  
   a. We ask for what we need daily
Manna in wilderness (Exodus 16)
- Had to be collected daily
- Couldn’t be gathered and kept for later
- Made them trust that God would provide each day
  Couldn’t do it without Him

b. Trusting God’s ultimate provision
   He is only one who can provide what we really need

IV. Our daily bread
a. Asking for the simple needs
   i. What are things we really NEED
   ii. How do we distinguish these from what we want
b. God knows all we need as our good Father
   i. He desires to give us good gifts that we need
   ii. He also knows those things that would not be good for us and
      He withholds them for our good

- God provides for His creation (Matthew 6:25-34)
  i. Gives lilies and ravens what they need
  ii. How much more will He take care of us who are made in His
     image
  iii. Shows we can trust Him

d. Not asking for selfish wants but daily needs
  i. God is not a genie to grant our wishes
  ii. He answers prayer so that we will know Him, trust Him and love
     Him more
     He often says no to reveal His will to us

V. How should this change the way we pray?
   a. We should not pray so selfishly
      i. Pray for good of others as well as ourselves
      ii. Pray for our NEEDS and not our wants

   b. We should pray trusting in God’s provision
      i. Remembering how He has taken care of us in the past
      ii. Not trying to do it all for ourselves

   c. We should pray DAILY

Small Group Discussion Questions:

Who are people in your life besides yourself that you should be praying for daily?
What things get in the way most from you praying daily?
What are the things you NEED from the Lord?
What things do you regularly pray for that you know are wants?
What are some ways that you have seen God provide for you?
“Forgive Us Our Debts, As We Have Forgiven Our Debtors”

Outline:

VI. Sin creates debts for us to pay
   a. Debt to God for what we haven’t done
   b. Debt towards others for what we have done in evil

VII. Need to confess our sins
   a. Asking for forgiveness is confession
      i. Acknowledge that we have sin
      ii. Acknowledge that God alone can take it away

VIII. We are called to forgive in the same way God has forgiven us (Matthew 18:21-35)
   a. We want to be forgiven but don’t want to forgive others
   b. Need to see the weight of our sin against the small slights against us
      i. Easy to see our sin as small and other’s sins against us as big
      ii. Our debt is way bigger than we can imagine
   c. Need to understand how we have been forgiven
      i. Completely (Hebrews 8:12)
      ii. Taken it away (Psalm 103:12)
   d. Need to seek forgiveness before we come to God
      Leave your sacrifice at altar and go to the person (Matthew 5:23-24)
   e. We need to actually forgive those who sin against us.
      Pray for our enemies (Matthew 5:44)

IX. How should this change the way we pray?
   a. We need to realize that we sin against God every day
   b. We need to be willing to tell God we are sorry and ask for forgiveness for our sins
   c. We need to be willing to forgive and pray for those who wrong us

Reflection Questions:

Who is someone that you have a hard time forgiving? Why?
Why is it so important to forgive others?
What are some specific ways that God has forgiven you?
How do you know when you have REALLY forgiven someone else?
Accountability

1. What encouraged/discouraged you from this past week?

2. Without saying something that you are “doing”, describe your relationship with the Lord.

3. How have you worshipped the creation rather than the Creator?

4. What lies have you been believing?

5. Describe the situation around one relationship that you would like prayer for?

6. Which spiritual discipline has really blessed you recently? Why?

7. Which spiritual discipline has been neglected lately? Why?

*The group does NOT need to go through every one of these questions. Depending on the size of the group, this should be about the last 30 minutes of the study.*
Mission

1. Share briefly an update on how the relationship is going with the three people on your prayer tags.

2. What would the next step in one of these relationships look like? Each of you help brainstorm ways to further the relationship or take steps towards sharing the gospel.

3. In general, do you feel encouraged or discouraged in these three relationships?

4. How are you serving people, the Church, our city and/or the world?
Supplication

Share your prayer requests with one another. Space is provided below to write them down. Use this to help remind you what to pray for each other during the week. In addition, there are a few questions to help you share requests.

What are your prayer requests regarding the truth this week?

In light of the discussion this week what do you need to pray for?

What are your prayer requests regarding any situations in your life this week?

Prayer requests from others in the group this week