



# The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:5-15

Jesus often left others to spend time with His heavenly Dad. For Jesus, praying was as natural as breathing. When Jesus' disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He gave them a sample prayer. In His example, we see the types of things we should pray for.



## Day #1: Praise

Jesus praised the name of His heavenly Father because He is SO worthy of praise! Sometimes we speak praise; sometimes we sing praise. When we pray, we offer our praise directly to God. Praise is not a fancy speech that we recite to impress God. It is simply thanking God for who He is and what He does. Praise brings even more power to our prayers (Psalm 50:23).

In 2 Chronicles 20, we read the story of an Israelite King named Jehoshaphat. This King found out that three armies were joining together to attack his people. These three armies were much stronger than the Israelites. What do you think King Jehoshaphat did? Did he call his commanders together to make a battle plan? Did he call on his neighboring kings for help? No, Jehoshaphat gathered all his people together and praised the Lord.

† He said, "Lord, You are the God of our people. You are the God who is in heaven. You rule over all of the kingdoms of the nations. Your hands are strong and powerful. No one can fight against You and win." - 2 Chronicles 20:6

Humbly, Jehoshaphat admitted that his army could not win this battle, but God certainly could. The Lord heard this heartfelt prayer and told the King not to worry. The Lord would fight the battle.

The next day, the King and his army marched toward the battlefield, singing songs of praise to God. Amazingly, the Lord caused the enemy armies to turn on each other. The enemies destroyed each other before King Jehoshaphat's army even arrived! So the Israelites praised the Lord some more!

\* Praise the Lord every day (Psalm 113:3). And when trouble comes, do not waste time trying to fix the problem yourself. Go to the Lord in prayer, and praise Him! See what the Lord does on your behalf! Practice praising the Lord right now. Tell God what He means to you; thank Him for who He is and what He does.

## Day #2: Kingdom

We often become like those we spend time with. Sometimes good friends start to pick up one another's habits. Moms and dads often know how their child will react in a given situation. Because the parent is with the child so much, the parent knows the heart and mind of their child. This is also the case when we spend time with Jesus.

Jesus made the way for us to come directly to the Lord to ask for our heart's desires. But how do we know if we are asking for the right things? If you spend time with Jesus, you'll ask for the right things! (John 16:15)

The kingdom of God was the most important thing to Jesus (Luke 4:43, John 12:27). Bringing people into God's kingdom was the reason Jesus left the side of His Father and came to earth. For the Kingdom of God, Jesus willingly laid down His life. If we know Jesus, love Him, and abide in Him, the kingdom will become everything to us as well.

When we remain in Jesus, we will have the kingdom mind set. We will see things according to His kingdom. We won't ask for things that are outside of His will. We'll ask to bear fruit that will bring glory to God, and bring others into the kingdom.

† "If you **remain joined to Me and My words remain in you**, ask for anything you wish. And it will be given to you. When you bear a lot of fruit, it brings glory to my Father. It shows that you are My disciples. - John 15:7-8

\* Name some people that you spend lots of time with. Do you have some of their habits? Do you know how they think and what they feel? If you spend more time with Jesus, what will change in your life? How will your prayers sound when you are like-minded with Jesus?

## Day #3: Needs

When was the last time you asked the question, "What's for dinner?" Most kids ask this question every night! But has your mom or dad ever answered, "Rocks and sticks"? Of course not! Your parents want to give you yummy food that is good for your body.

Jesus said that parents want to give their children what they need. Even more so, God, who is perfectly

### Day #3 continued:

loving, will always give His sons and daughters good things when they come to Him and ask (Matthew 7:11). The verse below is a promise from God, and God ALWAYS keeps His promises!



*My God will meet all your needs. He will meet them in keeping with His wonderful riches that come to you because you belong to Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:19*

Our God is not a stingy God! He loves us with a lavish love (Zephaniah 3:17). He blesses us abundantly. He owns everything and He will give us all that is good for us to have (Psalm 50:10-12, 1 Chronicles 4:10).

And God will supply so much more than just your physical needs! God will supply your need for wisdom, knowledge, and peace (James 1:5, Daniel 1:17, John 14:27). Even your very faith is a gift from your heavenly Father (Ephesians 2:8). Every good and perfect gift is from the Lord (James 1:17).



The next time you ask, "What's for dinner?" let it remind you that God is waiting for you to come to Him. Just like you ask your parents for daily food, ask God to meet all of your needs each day.

## Day #4: Forgiveness

In Jesus' model prayer, He told His disciples that they should ask for forgiveness and they should forgive others.

How do you think a parent feels when their child disobeys what they say? The parent feels that the child does not respect him or her, and this puts a strain in the relationship.

Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will obey what I command." (John 14:15) When we choose to sin, we are saying, "No," to Jesus. This keeps us from having a pure relationship with Him (John 13:8). We believers must come to the Lord daily to confess our sins. We agree that our sin is wrong and ask the Lord to help us turn and go in the opposite direction. Then our relationship is right again. We are able to worship, pray to, and listen to Jesus.

Next, we are to forgive others. Jesus said there is almost no limit to how many times we should be willing to forgive someone (Matthew 18:21-22). We had sinned against God and we owed a sin debt. It was a huge debt that we were helpless to repay. But through Jesus, God cancelled our debt. We were made free. Since we were forgiven such a HUGE debt, how can we not forgive those who have wronged us? (Matthew 18:23-35)

### Day #4 continued:

Loving relationships are key in the kingdom of God. Jesus wants us to confess the sins in our lives so that nothing stands in the way of our relationship with Him. And He wants us to forgive others so that nothing stands in the way of our relationship with them.



*Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love Him with all your mind." This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." - Matthew 22:37-39*



Is there a sin that you need to confess? Is there a person you need to forgive? Your relationship with the Lord and your relationship with others matter greatly to Jesus.

## Day #5: Grace

Did you know there is electricity flowing throughout the walls in your house? It is the power source for your lamps, your computer, and your television. It is what gives your refrigerator the power to keep your food cold, and gives lamps the power to light up a room. But what if you went around and unplugged every appliance in your house? The electricity would still be there, but your appliances wouldn't work! Unless the item is plugged into the power source, it is powerless and useless.

Jesus taught His disciples to plug into God's power by praying. One reason they needed God's power was to stay away from sin. Jesus said:

*Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing. But the body is weak. - Matthew 26:41*

God's grace gives us power to do two things that we cannot do on our own. First, it helps us not to sin. Then, it helps us to do what is right.



*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. - Titus 2:12 NIV*



Is there an area of temptation that you struggle with? Maybe you struggle with saying unkind words. Maybe you are often tempted to lie to your parents, or maybe you gossip about your classmates. Whatever it is, God's power is FAR greater! He promises to give you a way out when you are tempted to sin (1 Corinthians 10:13). Ask God for the grace to steer clear of this sin. Plug into God's power every day through prayer!