

Prayer Discussion Guide

Week 2—Jan 15th

The Lord's Prayer—Matthew 6:5-13

⁵ “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. ⁷ And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

⁸ “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray:

*Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.*

¹⁰ *Your kingdom come.*

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ *Give us this day our daily bread.*

¹² *And forgive us our debts,*

As we forgive our debtors.

¹³ *And do not lead us into temptation,*

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

Response Questions

1. What mistakes does Jesus see people making in prayer?
2. Read verse 8. If God knows what we need already, what is the point of prayer (see the following verses for ideas)?
3. How do your typical prayers compare to the Lord's Prayer?

Challenges for Groups

"Give us this day our daily bread...

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one." -Matthew 6:11,13

1. Allow each person in your group to share what daily bread they would ask God for. What is your need today from God?
2. Allow each person to share a current situation that causes you temptation or from which you are in need of deliverance.
3. Pray for one another—spend some time in silent prayer as a group, each person praying for the person to their left. Then commit to praying for that same person this week. Close by saying the Lord's Prayer together (printed on the other side).

Practice this week—Memorize a New Prayer

In worship this Sunday, we consecrated our spiritual leaders for 2017 using parts of the Wesley Covenant service. The prayer below is called the Wesley Covenant Prayer. Read through it this week and pick some lines to memorize, or memorize the whole thing!

Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own. I am Yours, O Lord.

Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will.

Put me to use for You. Put me to suffering for You.

Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You.

Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You.

Let me be full or let me be empty.

Let me have all things or let me have nothing.

With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure
and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
You are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.