

Session 8 – The Lord’s Prayer

1. What privilege and command does God give to those who believe in Jesus Christ? God commands and invites us to _____ (Matthew 7:7-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Martin Luther said, “To be a Christians without prayer is like being alive without breathing.”
2. What is prayer? Prayer is speaking to God in _____ and _____ (Psalm 19:14, Acts 7:59-60).
3. Believers in Christ should pray:
 - A. To the true God only, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, not to idols, saints, Mary, the dead, or anything God has created (Psalm 65:2, 1 John 5:20-21, Revelation 22:8-9).
 - B. In the name of Jesus, that is, with faith in Him as our Redeemer (John 16:23, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3).
 - C. For everything that inclines to the glory of God – both _____ and _____ blessings (Philippians 4:6, Psalm 136:1).
 - D. With _____ and firm trust that for Jesus’ sake our prayers will be answered (Matthew 21:22, James 1:6-7).
 - E. According to God’s revealed _____ (Luke 11:13, Luke 22:42, Matthew 8:2, 1 John 5:14).
 - F. Knowing that the Holy Spirit prays with us and for us (Romans 8:26, Romans 8:13-15)
 - G. With the knowledge that God hears all our prayers and answers in His own way at His own time (Isaiah 65:24, 2 Corinthians 12:8-9).
 - H. For all people including our enemies (1 Timothy 2:1-2, Matthew 5:44, Hebrews 9:27).
 - I. _____ regularly and frequently, especially in times of trouble (1 Timothy 2:8, Matthew 6:6, Luke 5:16, Acts 12:5, Psalm 65:8, Psalm 119:164, Daniel 6:10, Luke 18:1, Psalm 50:15)
4. Many of us at different times in our lives find ourselves in a state of *prayer paralysis*. We want and desire to pray, but we may feel we:
 - Don’t have the _____.
 - Don’t possess the _____.
 - Can’t pray _____.
 - Don’t have our _____.

See **Appendix G** for prayer helps.

5. **Read Luke 11:1-4.** As the twelve disciples noticed Jesus’ prayer life, they certainly had many of the same concerns as the ones above. What is the significance of Jesus giving the disciples His very own words to follow as a pattern for prayer?

6. **The Lord's Prayer** – *Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.* In the Lord's Prayer, we pray that God's _____ will become our _____, His _____ our _____, and His _____ our _____. Notice that this model prayer focuses on God's will as opposed to our own.
7. You can better grasp the meaning of the Lord's Prayer as follows: Given in Luke 2-4 in shorter form and Matthew 6:9-13 in response to the Disciples "teach us to pray."
- A. Introduction: *Our Father who art in heaven*
 - B. 1st Petition: *Hallowed be Thy name.*
 - C. 2nd Petition: *Thy kingdom come.*
 - D. 3rd Petition: *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*
 - E. 4th Petition: *Give us this day our daily bread.*
 - F. 5th Petition: *Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*
 - G. 6th Petition: *Lead us not into temptation.*
 - H. 7th Petition: *Deliver us from evil.*
 - I. Conclusion: *For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen*

How do these petitions help us establish healthy boundaries for our own prayer life?

8. **Introduction** – *Our Father Who art in heaven.* We are greatly encouraged when we pray these words because:
- A. The word _____ tells us that God loves us and wants us to pray to Him confidently and without fear (1 John 3:1, Romans 8:15-16, 2 Corinthians 6:18, Hebrews 4:16, Psalm 103:13)
 - B. The word _____ impresses upon us that we are children of the one Father's world-wide family in Christ and should pray with and for one another (Ephesians 4:6, Galatians 3:26, James 5:16).
 - C. The words _____ assure us that our heavenly Father, as Lord over all, has the power to grant our prayers (Psalm 124:8, Luke 1:37, Acts 17:24).
9. Why is it beneficial to begin our prayers knowing that God is *Our Father*?
10. **1st Petition** – *Hallowed be Thy name.* When we pray these words, we:
- A. _____ that we know God's name is holy in itself (Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 1:21, Matthew 18:20).

- B. _____ that the holiness of His name would make us holy also (Deuteronomy 6:13, Proverbs 18:10, Luke 1:38).
- C. _____ to keep God's word in its truth and purity (Jeremiah 23:28, John 17:17).
- D. _____ to live according to His Word every day (Matthew 5:16, Ephesians 4:1).

11. How can you keep God's name holy in your life?

12. **2nd Petition** – *Thy Kingdom Come*. The kingdom of God is His ruling as King over the whole universe (kingdom of power), the Church on earth (kingdom of grace), and the Church and angels in heaven (kingdom of glory). In this petition, we do not pray that God's kingdom of power would come, because that is already present everywhere, but we ask God to:

- A. _____ us His Holy Spirit so that we believe His Word and lead godly lives as members of His kingdom of grace (Mark 1:15, Romans 14:17, Colossians 1:13-14).
- B. _____ many others into His kingdom of grace (Matthew 9:38, 2 Thessalonians 3:1).
- C. _____ us to extend His kingdom of grace (Acts 4:29, 1 Peter 2:12).
- D. _____ the coming of His kingdom of glory (Philippians 3:20, Revelation 22:20).

13. How can God use you to bring His kingdom to others?

14. **3rd Petition** – *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*. It is God's will that all sinners be brought to faith in Jesus Christ and live godly lives (John 6:40, 1 Timothy 2:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:3). This will of God is opposed by three deadly enemies: The _____, a _____, and our own _____ (1 Peter 5:8, 1 John 2:15-17, Romans 7:18). In spite of these enemies who engage in fierce warfare to exterminate the Gospel, we know that the will of God will always be done. In this petition, we pray for God's will, and not our will, to be done and accomplished in *our lives*. God's will is done when:

- A. He breaks and hinders the plans of the devil, the world, and our flesh, which try to destroy our faith in Christ Jesus (Romans 16:20, 2 Timothy 1:12).
- B. He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith and helps us lead God-pleasing lives (1 Peter 1:5, Psalm 119:35).
- C. He supports us in all our troubles until we die in faith (Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians 12:9).

15. How do you determine if something is your will or God's will?

16. **4th Petition** – *Give us this day our daily bread.* We pray to God for daily bread, which includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, because Christ wants us to:
- _____ that our entire life and the lives of everyone depends on God (Psalm 145:15-16, Matthew 5:45, Acts 17:28, James 4:15).
 - _____ all our physical blessings with thanksgiving (Psalm 106:1, Ephesians 5:19-20, 1 Timothy 4:4-5).
 - _____ to God for physical as well as spiritual blessings (Psalm 91:15, Matthew 6:33, Luke 7:3).
17. **Read Proverbs 30:8-9.** How does the prayer for *daily* bread keep you from having a thankful, self-reliant heart?
18. **5th Petition** – *Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.* When we pray these words, we:
- _____ that we sin every day in thought, word, and deed and should justly receive the punishment our actions deserve (Psalm 19:12, Proverbs 28:13, Luke 18:13).
 - _____ the gracious forgiveness we have from our Father in heaven through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Psalm 51:1-2, Psalm 130:3-4, Romans 5:8-9).
 - _____ to forgive and to do good to those who sin against us (Matthew 6:12-15, Matthew 18:21-22, Ephesians 4:32).
19. How does an unresolved conflict with another person hinder your prayer?
20. **6th Petition** – *Lead us not into temptation.* God tempts no one, but He will _____ our faith in order to bring us closer to Himself. In this petition, we pray that God would protect us from the temptations of our spiritual enemies: the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. We ask God to:
- Make us _____ of the attempts of our spiritual enemies to lure us way from Him and His ways (Mark 14:38, 1 Peter 5:8-9, James 1:13-14).
 - Preserve us from _____ of our spiritual enemies as they seek to lead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice (Proverbs 1:10, Matthew 18:7, Galatians 5:17).
 - Give us strength to _____ and _____ temptations (Luke 22:31-32, Romans 13:14, 1 Corinthians 10:12-13, Ephesians 6:11).
21. Why is it wise to reshape your environment after your conversion to Christianity?
22. **7th Petition** – *But deliver us from evil.* In the 7th Petition, we pray that the Lord would:

- A. _____ us from every evil of body, soul, possessions, and reputation as we live out our Christian calling in a world ruined by sin (Acts 14:22, 2 Corinthians 12:9, 2 Thessalonians 3:3).
- B. _____ us faithful until the day of His final deliverance for all believers when He will rescue us from this sorrowful world and take us to Himself in heaven (Luke 2:29-30, 2 Timothy 4:18, Revelation 21:4).
23. How does this petition keep us ever mindful of our spiritual adversary and his means of deception?
24. **Conclusion** – *For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.* As we pray these words, we give our God, the all-powerful Lord of heaven and earth, the glory that is rightly due His name. We can be certain that our Father in heaven hears our prayers and answers them as He has promised. He alone:
- A. Is the _____ Who has all good gifts in His control (James 1:17, Psalm 103:2-3).
- B. Has the _____ to grant our petitions (Psalm 33:6, Ephesians 3:20-21).
- C. Has all _____ and is worthy of our praise (Psalm 113:4-5, 1 Timothy 1:17).
25. Amen is a Hebrew word that means _____ or _____. How is this word a fitting conclusion to the Lord's Prayer and all our prayers?
26. **Read Matthew 11:28-30.** How can this invitation of Jesus break down the walls of our prayer paralysis?
27. Is it best to pray "form prayers" or "prayers from the heart"?
28. Does God hear and answer all prayers? (Isaiah 65:24, John 9:31, 2 Corinthians 12:8-9)