

## Message Discussion Guide

**Date:** April 20-21, 2024

**Title:** The Lord's Prayer

### Connect with Each Other:

#### Icebreakers

- What is your favorite feature in your car? Least favorite?
- Earth day is/was Monday April 22. What is your favorite way to enjoy nature?

#### Pray Together

Heavenly Father, we come to you with thanks. We are grateful for the model of prayer that Jesus gave us. Help open our hearts and minds to see that what we need most is a stronger relationship with you. Through that relationship we can meet our needs, grow to fill our purpose, and triumph over the attacks of the enemy. Fill us with the peace that a deep and sincere prayer life gives so we can overcome the anxiety of this world. We lift all this up in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### Connect with God:

#### Key Bible Verses

**Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)** - Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 6:9-13 (NLT)** - Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

## **Message Summary**

This series is about how we overcome anxiety. This week looks at the power of prayer.

Jesus instructs his disciples on prayer and tells them they must not be like the hypocrites (who pray to be seen and heard), or the Gentiles (who assume the volume of their words is a substitute for sincerity and faith). Instead, they are to recognize the one they are praying to as “Father”, who knows every need they possess before it is ever articulated.

Prayer is our way of developing a closer relationship to God. To know that he’s listening to us as a good dad listens to their child - not because what their kid is saying is necessarily new information; but because they love their kid and want to meet their needs.

Anxiety is very earth-oriented. Praying lifts our perspective above the job that’s stressing us out, the money issues we can’t stop worrying about, the relationship that seems to be falling apart, our mental or physical health that’s being tested... above all that, to heaven! We are reminding ourselves that what we are facing is limited; but the God we are praying to occupies all of space and time. There is a great King, and he is in control of all things! And that is what we need.

As we pray and grow in our relationship, we can ask God to help change this world to be like Heaven, to show us a purpose beyond ourselves, to provide our needs (not necessarily our wants), to give us a clean slate and a new heart, and His power to rescue us from the temptations of the enemy.

## **Sticky statement**

Pray for what you need:

A Father who is faithful to you;

A purpose beyond you;

A provider to take care of you;

A clean slate offered to you;

A power greater than you.

## Discussion Questions

1. Does the model of the Lord's prayer help you in your own prayer life?
2. Does your relationship with your earthly father help or hinder your ability to view God as a warm, faithful, and loving father?
3. How does regular prayer help us to see a purpose beyond ourselves?
4. Why do you think the Lord's Prayer talks about "daily bread" and not weekly, monthly, or yearly?
5. Does God giving each of us a clean slate make it easier for you to forgive someone who has wronged you?
6. What other insights do you have from this week's message?



**WE MAY FIND OURSELVES  
USING PRAYER AS A WAY OF  
TRYING TO GET WHAT WE  
THINK WE NEED - I.E., STUFF.  
BUT JESUS TAUGHT THE  
LORD'S PRAYER TO SHOW US  
THAT WHAT WE REALLY  
NEED IS A DEEPER  
RELATIONSHIP WITH  
GOD WHO PROVIDES,  
PROTECTS, AND  
GUIDES US.**

**OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, MAY YOUR NAME BE KEPT  
HOLY. MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME SOON. MAY  
YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH, AS IT IS IN  
HEAVEN. GIVE US TODAY THE FOOD WE NEED,  
AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AS WE HAVE FORGIVEN  
THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US. AND DON'T LET US  
YIELD TO TEMPTATION, BUT RESCUE US FROM  
THE EVIL ONE.**

**-MATTHEW 6:9-13 (NLT)**