

THE LORD'S PRAYER

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Jesus teaches us how to pray—He is calling us to passionate and persistent prayer. The Lord's Prayer is a model for all prayer: first, focus on the glory of God; then, focus on your personal needs.

INTRODUCTION

If you could ask Jesus to teach you anything, what would it be?

What is implied by the disciples' request, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1)? How has Jesus taught you to pray?

UNDERSTANDING

READ LUKE 11:1-13

In what way is The Lord's Prayer a model for all prayer? How can this prayer be divided into two sections, and how does that structure help with being focused?

***We pray to our Father in Heaven who loves us.* How does knowing God's attributes—He is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and holy—impact the way we worship and contemplate God before offering petitions? How does calling upon God as "Father" compel you to pray (Romans 8:15)?**

***We need to pray for God's Kingdom to come.* In what ways is this both a personal request and an evangelistic prayer? For God's Kingdom to come, what must "go"?**

We need to pray for God's will to be done. Why is God's will best? How does prayer help align your will with God's will (1 John 5:14-15)?

We need to bring our personal needs before God. What is the simplest way to explain why God is personally committed to providing for your needs (Luke 11:11-13)? How does the request for daily bread reveal that everything comes from God (James 1:17)?

We need to pray for personal forgiveness and to forgive others. How does regular confession of sin remind you of your need for God (Ephesians 4:30-32)? Why should forgiven people also be forgiving people?

We need to pray to not fall into temptation. In what ways are we prone to rationalize temptation? How does prayer help us resist temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13)?

The secret to answered prayer is to keep praying about it—keep asking, seeking, and knocking. What is implied by each of these actions?

APPLICATION

How have you prayed "The Lord's Prayer"? Have you memorized it, or used it as a pattern for prayer? How are you encouraged to learn how to pray from Jesus Himself?

Pastor Greg asked, "Why don't we pray more?" and offered three reasons: we think we don't have the time; we don't think prayer is important; we think prayer doesn't work. In what ways do you find yourself having these reasons? How would you like to grow in *passionate* and *persistent* prayer?

PRAYER

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven. Ask Jesus to continue to teach you how to pray and how not to pray. Pray for God's glory and then bring your personal needs to Him. As a group, pray "The Lord's Prayer" and then use it as a model for additional praise reports and prayer requests.