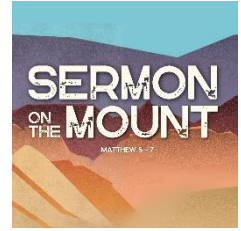


# The Sermon on the Mount: The Lord's Prayer

## Lesson 11: November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

**Read Matthew 6:9-15**



**Sermon Reflection Question:** What captured your attention from Sunday's sermon?

*At the center of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives his followers a prayer. Unlike the pagans and hypocrites, Jesus does not model complex theological language, hyper-spiritual formulas or empty religious words. Rather, Jesus invites his disciples to pray in a way that weaves together the story of the Hebrew Scriptures with the arrival of God's Kingdom.*

1. In Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus begins the prayer with three statements focused on God's identity and reign:

- "Our Father in heaven..."
- "Hallowed be your name..."
- "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

a. Why do you think the prayer begins with "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name"?

b. Read v. 10 aloud. How does this shape our priorities, motivations, and focus of our prayers?

2. In Matthew 6:11-13, Jesus transitions to three requests regarding daily human needs: daily bread, forgiveness, and deliverance from testing.

a. How does praying for "our daily bread" reflect a reliance on God's daily provision rather than an attitude of accumulation or self-sufficiency? What does this look like for you practically?

b. In v. 12, what relationship does Jesus establish between receiving God's forgiveness and extending forgiveness to others? Why do you think these two things belong together?

c. What further insight does James 1:12-17 provide regarding what it means to be delivered from testing/temptation?

*Notice the movement of the prayer: we begin with God—His name, His kingdom, and His will—and then we bring our daily needs to Him: provision, forgiveness, and deliverance. Jesus is teaching his followers a way of praying that joins trust in God’s purposes with dependence upon God’s provision.*

3. In Matthew 6:14-15, Jesus offers an explanatory note on forgiveness immediately following the prayer.  
a. Why does Jesus single out forgiveness as the one petition from the prayer to expand upon?

b. Read Matthew 18:21-35. How does holding onto bitterness or refusing to forgive others reveal a heart that has not fully understood the mercy of God's Kingdom?

4. Take a moment and reflect on your life of prayer and communication with God our Father. What three adjectives would you use to describe your prayer life?

5. Which specific petition in the Lord's Prayer feels most challenging for you to pray sincerely right now? Why?

6. In 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish culture, reciting a daily prayer was a primary tool for habit formation and character alignment. How can praying the Lord's Prayer regularly shape our daily desires, choices, and worldviews?

7. What is one practical way you can make this model prayer part of your routine this week, using it as a framework for your personal quiet time with God?

8. What are specific ways our life group can cultivate a community that embodies the Lord's Prayer—actively seeking God's will on earth, practicing forgiveness, and trusting God for daily needs together?

**Pray:** Spend some time praying through the Lord’s Prayer slowly. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where your desires need to be brought into alignment with God’s Kingdom and will. Is there someone you need to forgive? Is there an area where you need to trust God for daily provision? Where are you experiencing testing or facing evil and need to ask God for deliverance? End by praising God that He invites us to come to Him as our Father.

*Lesson adapted from “Knowing the Bible: The Sermon on the Mount” and BibleProject Guides & Classroom*