

# MARCH 2023

Week 4

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### Bible Reading:

- Matthew 6:9-13
- Matthew 7:12

### Self reflection & Meditation:

- How does forgiving others (or not) affect our ability to connect and communicate with God?
- Confess any areas in your life that require God's forgiveness today. Let Him heal, deliver, and cleanse you.

## Devotion

In this portion of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus exhorts us to seek forgiveness, yet He goes beyond that. He establishes a connection between our own forgiveness and our attitude towards forgiving others. He instructs us to pray for God's forgiveness in proportion to how we forgive those around us.

As Jesus concluded the Lord's Prayer, He expounded on this concept to His disciples, emphasizing that if we forgive others, God will also forgive us. Conversely, if we refuse to forgive others, God will withhold His forgiveness from us.

This principle echoes another of Jesus' teachings, commonly known as the "Golden Rule," which underscores the importance of treating others as we would want them to treat us. As Jesus taught in Matthew 7:12, our desire for love, peace, and kindness should prompt us to exhibit these qualities towards others. Ultimately, if we hope to receive forgiveness ourselves, we must be willing to extend forgiveness to those who have wronged us.