

MARCH 2023

Week 5

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bible Reading:

- Matthew 6:9-13
- James 1:12-15
- 1 Peter 5:8

Self reflection & Meditation:

- Has God ever kept you from / guided you through a time of temptation? Has He delivered you from evil in a noticeable way?
- Meditate on how God has provided and protected and share that testimony with someone in your life.

Devotion

The Lord's Prayer, as recounted in the Gospel of Matthew, offers us hope, assistance, and guidance in every aspect of our lives. The final section of the prayer is no exception, as Jesus provides us with instructions for the moments when we face opposition.

Jesus advises his followers to first ask God to lead them away from temptation. This does not mean that God is responsible for tempting us, as James explains in his epistle. Instead, it acknowledges that temptation will arise, and it is our responsibility to avoid, resist, and overcome it. By turning to God, we ask Him to guide us away from what tempts us and to help us navigate the moments of temptation that inevitably arise.

Finally, Jesus urges us to pray that God will deliver us from evil. As Peter notes in his epistle, our adversary prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking to devour us. There is no doubt that evil exists, but we can find comfort in knowing that God is our salvation, strength, shield, and hiding place. We need to seek Him out not only when we are struggling or facing evil head-on, but also when we are unaware of its presence and need protection from it.