



## Week 5 - The Battle

**Series Passage:** Matthew 6:9-14

**Focus for the Week:** Matthew 6:13, Matthew 4:1-11, Ephesians 6:13-20

### **Discussion Guide:**

Prayer is one of the most important parts of the Christian life. If we are not in communication with God, how can we grow in our relationship with and understanding of Him? Prayer is central that Jesus himself took the time to give us an outline of how to pray; the Lord's Prayer.

**Pray together:** Matthew 6:9-14

In the time since Jesus' day the church has added a concluding phrase to the Lord's Prayer, "For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever, Amen." While this is a powerful phrase, it isn't the initial ending to the Lord's prayer. Today's focus is the closing verse as seen in the text, "And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:13)

**Q:** What do you think Jesus is teaching us by closing his prayer this way?

The way this closing stanza is phrased Jesus is reminding us that there is a link between our temptations and the works of the evil one, Satan. At the start of Jesus' we see this realized:

**Read:** Matthew 4:1-11

**Q:** What were the different ways Satan was trying to tempt Jesus?

**Q:** In what ways are those temptations applied to us today?

**Q:** What was Jesus' response to each of Satans temptations?

**Q:** How can we learn from Jesus' response?

### **Finishing Well**

“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:12)

In our postmodern society the concept of battling spiritual forces is pushed into the realm of fantasy. However, that response is a tactic of the enemy. As we follow after Christ we are also entering into the battle. Through Jesus' death and resurrection we can go into this fight with the assurance of Christ's victory over all the powers of evil.

We will face trials and temptations, and in each way we are to follow Christ's example. Standing firmly upon the Scriptures, the very Word of God.

**Read:** Ephesians 6:13-20

### **Close in Prayer**