



DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 4:1-25

DIGGING DEEPER GUIDE FOR LORD'S PRAYER SERIES

During this 7-week series on the Lord's Prayer, we will unpack how Jesus teaches his disciples to pray one phrase at a time. **Before you begin your discussion, take a moment to pray together.** Invite the Holy Spirit to open your hearts and minds to what He wants to show you. Ask Him to guide your conversation, help you listen well to one another, and reveal how He is inviting you to grow.

READ THE PASSAGE TOGETHER: Matthew 4:1-25

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Don't feel pressured to get through every question! Follow as the Spirit leads and spend your time on the questions that spark meaningful conversation.

1. Read Matthew 4:1-11.
 - What do you notice about the way Satan tempts Jesus?
 - What does each temptation seem to invite Jesus to doubt about his Father or his identity?
 - What do these temptations reveal about the ways we can be tempted to pursue our own kingdoms rather than trust God's?
2. Jesus responds to each temptation by trusting and submitting to the Father rather than taking a shortcut. Where do you see the tension between Jesus' way of living and the ways our culture tells us to pursue what is *"relevant, spectacular, or powerful"* (*In the Name of Jesus* by Henri Nouwen)?
3. Read Matthew 4:12-17. Jesus' first recorded message is, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."* What do you think Jesus means by "repent" in this context? Where might following Jesus invite you to rethink your direction, priorities, or assumptions about how life is supposed to work?
4. Read Matthew 4:18-22. What stands out to you about the way Jesus calls these first disciples? What does Jesus' initiative in choosing them, and their response, teach us about what it means to follow Jesus?

SHARE & PRAYER

As we anchor ourselves in the Lord's Prayer for this series, we want to grow in our awareness of the ways God's Kingdom is breaking in! We invite you to cultivate the practice of paying attention as you go about your week, pausing to reflect, noticing where you see God at work, and sharing what you've experienced. As we learn to notice and name what God is doing, we become more aware of His presence and more attentive to the ways He is inviting us to participate in what He is doing. **Take on the weekly challenge to pay attention and come prepared to share with your group!**

- **SHARE:** Where have you seen God at work this week? Share a story, moment, conversation, answered prayer, unexpected provision, opportunity, or anything else that made you aware of God. (This could be in your own life, someone else's life, our church, or the world around you).
- **RESPOND:** What might God be inviting you to do, see, trust, change or participate in this week?
- **PRAY:** Share prayer requests and pray together. Incorporate this week's focus from the Lord's Prayer and ask: What does this part of the prayer invite us to ask God?





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MORE WAYS TO ENGAGE

Fair Oaks Church Sermon Podcast (Apple Pod & Spotify)

- Listen to Sunday messages posted weekly
- Listen to Cutting Room Floor episodes that further unpack sermons

UPCOMING EVENTS [Learn more at fairoaks.church/events](https://fairoaks.church/events)

- **2027 Mission Trip Applications Open** | Due by 11/30 | Submit online at fairoaks.church/missions
- **9/7: Labor Day** | Campus Closed
- **9/9: Hope Gathering Widows Group** | 5-7p | Family Life Center - AMC
- **9/11: Serve at the FO/OV Food Bank** | 2nd Friday of the month | September 11 | 9a-12:30p
Sign up to help at fairoaks.church/missions
- **9/13: GROUPS Fall Session Begins**
Explore Groups & opportunities to connect at fairoaks.church/groups
- **9/13: Food Drive** | during worship services | drop off in FLC lobby & outside of the Worship Center
- **9/20: Family Gathering** | 4p | Family Life Center | Topics: financial/giving update, vision and direction for worship | Details at fairoaks.church/events
- **9/23: All-Church Worship Night** | 6:30-7:30p | Chapel | Draw near to God through a gathered night of worship through music, Scripture, and prayer | Families are welcome to worship together! (Programs for Kids available for 1st-5th grade)
- **9/25-9/27 Men's Retreat** | Camp Alta | Register at fairoaks.church/events
- **10/9: Sisterhood Women's Gathering** | 6:30-8p | FLC Conf Rooms | Speaker: Jessica Benton, teaching on redemption and transformation | RSVP fairoaks.church/events

STAY INFORMED

Check The Weekly fairoaks.church/theweekly - All church news in one spot!

