



They  
Will Be  
Done

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your Kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread..  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into  
temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the  
power and the glory forever.  
Amen.

# Honest to God

A master class  
in the  
Lord's Prayer

Aug. 25 - Nov. 3  
6:15pm - 8:00pm  
RCC Fireside Room



## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 1 – Authentic Prayer

Jesus was a praying man. His disciples saw this about their teacher right away. He prayed every morning, often before the sun came up. They saw His habit of slipping away at the end of a long day for time alone with His Father. They heard Him pray and witnessed the power and peace that He carried into every aspect of His life and ministry. So, they asked Jesus to teach them to pray.

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover how (and how not) to pray.
- Consider what experiencing God's presence in daily life is intended to be.
- Examine how God speaks to us through His Word.
- Pray unhurried prayers that are rooted in knowing and living in God's Word.

#### Ice Breaker

What is the first prayer you were taught to say? Who taught you?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:5–13** and **Luke 18:9–14** to get the overall idea. Follow the dialogue closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.



## Day Two — The Power of a Simple Prayer

### Read Matthew 6:5–13

Jesus gave the disciples more than a pattern of words to pray. In six phrases, this prayer shows us what experiencing God’s presence in daily life is intended to be.

1. So, are you ready to discover how to experience the power of God’s presence in six short phrases? Let’s get going! But wait—this isn’t a race. Not a sprint, anyway. We run a Hebrews 12:1–2 race where endurance is tantamount to winning. The pace is set by keeping our eyes on Jesus. We don’t have to run fast, we just need to stay close and keep in step with Him.

The Lord’s Prayer is short and easy to recite, but actually praying it cannot be hurried. We are used to *fast*—with a side of *while we’re at it* thrown in, because that’s the pace of this world we live in. Truth be told, being quiet and focused on just one thing for more than five uninterrupted minutes is getting harder to do.

- a. Jesus regularly removed Himself from busyness to pray. If Jesus needed to get away from distractions to pray, what does that say for us? If you could have five uninterrupted minutes with Jesus three times a day, how would you spend them? (No really, think about it and write something down.)
  - b. From what you know about Jesus’ earthly ministry, describe what a typical day’s routine might have been for Him.
2. To understand what prayer is, let’s be clear on what it is not. Even people who claim no particular faith in God may adopt prayer as a healthy practice for mental and emotional well-being. But prayer is not tapping into some energy we stir up in ourselves.

Prayer is conversing with God, and good conversation involves listening as well as speaking. God speaks first through His Word and authentic prayer is rooted in knowing and responding to God’s Word. Put another way, “Without prayer that answers the God of the Bible, we will only be talking to ourselves.”<sup>1</sup> Briefly note what will *always* be true of God speaking to us.

Psalm 119:105

Proverbs 8:32–34

2 Timothy 3:16

Hebrews 4:16

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<sup>1</sup> Timothy Keller, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, pg. 62

3. Now think of God's promises that are attached to prayer. Here are a few to get you started.

Matthew 7:7

John 15:7

1 John 5:14–15

James 1:5

Jeremiah 29:12–13

Psalms 91:15

Isaiah 65:24

Psalms 34:17

Is there one promise in particular that resonates with you today? Briefly share why.

### **Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.  
Matthew 6:8 ESV

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### **Think it over . . .**

What are three qualities about your Heavenly Father that settle your cares and concerns?

## Day Three – Pray-Acting and Empty Words

### Read Matthew 6:5–8 and Luke 18:9–14

Jesus began by telling the disciples how *not* to pray.

1. Jesus warned the disciples not to treat prayer like a performance in order to impress others or feel good about themselves. The problem wasn't when or where they prayed, but why they prayed.
  - a. Devout Jews observed public prayers three times a day, at 9:00 AM, noon, and 3:00 PM. If they couldn't be at the synagogue, they would stop and pray wherever they were. The men in Jesus' illustration made sure everyone knew how devout they were. The point Jesus made was that, if we only pray when others can see and hear us, we're missing the point! Why is it essential for us to get alone with the Lord to pray?
  - b. When believers pray together, in what ways might we be inclined to impress others or compare how we pray with someone else's prayer?
2. Jesus had more to say about hypocritical prayers. When pray-acting is used to draw attention to oneself, it's annoying. But what was the self-centered Pharisee in Luke 18:9–14 doing?
  - a. If we were in church with these men, what might we see? One, a regular church-going, tithe-paying, morally upright man. The other, a guy who sees the mess he's made of his life, asking God for a clean heart and a fresh start. Both are in church and both have reasons to be thankful. But which prayer does God accept? Why?
  - b. Jesus said the humble man went home justified. The other man went home with a log in his eye (Matthew 7:5). We might think, *he wasn't even a Christian*. Do we know that? This much we know; we don't want to be that man. As C.S. Lewis put it, "When we Christians behave badly, or fail to behave well, we are making Christianity unbelievable to the world."

As representatives of the gospel, what lends credence to our message?

John 13:34–35

3. Jesus cautioned the disciples not to use vain repetitions like those who pray to false gods. When the apostle Paul visited Athens, the philosophers wanted to hear what new techniques he might have to offer (Acts 17:18). They never knew which god might listen, so prayer was a ritual of calling out each god by name and reciting elaborate incantations.
  - a. Why did Jesus downplay using the same words and phrases repeatedly when we pray?
  - b. What did Jesus *not* mean when He said, “Pray then like this...” (Matthew 6:9 ESV).
  
4. Jesus gave the disciples simple guidelines on how *not* to pray. These may be some of the same hurdles that we need to clear. There may be other hurdles that come to mind for you.
  - a. In what ways do we tend to make prayer more complicated?
  - b. In what ways can these guidelines help to keep your own prayers simple and focused?
  
5. Authentic prayer means: (Check all that apply.)
  - a. Pray with a listening heart (Ecclesiastes 5:2). \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Pray with a humble heart (2 Chronicles 7:14). \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Pray with an undivided heart (Jeremiah 29:13). \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Pray with a faithful heart (Mark 11:22–24). \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Pray with an obedient heart (1 John 3:22). \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Add your own thought to the list: \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.  
Matthew 6:8 ESV

### Think it over . . .

Is there a particular prayer habit you need to break? Why or why not?

## Day Four – Ask, Seek, Knock ... and Run?

### Read Matthew 7:7–11

Jesus talks about the generosity of persistent prayer.

When Jesus said, “Look! I stand at the door and knock,” (Revelation 3:20 NLT) He was speaking to a church that had gotten complacent in their relationship with Him. They were good at doing good things, but Jesus could see what they needed was a meal of fellowship...conversation... and communion with Him.

Some mornings we rush out the door, no time for coffee with Jesus. We grab a verse off our phone and wash it down with an inspirational quote. It isn't a meal, and it's not a sustainable spiritual diet—but some mornings it's the best we can manage. Surely better than nothing, but not ideal. Jesus understands *busy*. He didn't always have time for a meal and the crowds didn't go home after five. But He was in step with the Spirit and He knew how to keep *busy* from crowding out *best*. Surely, this is one reason the disciples asked Him to teach them to pray.

1. Having God's Word committed to memory is more than a good idea—it's a lifeline for us in the busy days. It will be “a strong refuge we can resort to continually...and my mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day...” (Psalm 71:3, 15).

Share a few favorite verses you've committed to memory that you can *resort to continually* throughout the day.

2. But in Matthew 7:7–11, Jesus turned the illustration and we are the ones who are at the door, asking, seeking, and knocking. As you read this familiar passage, what does it teach us about prayer?
  - a. In the Lord's pattern for prayer, Jesus said don't be repetitious in saying your prayers. Does that mean we shouldn't repeat our prayers? Explain the difference.

### Memory Verse

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.  
Matthew 6:8 ESV

### Think it over . . .

What is the most common name you use to address God when you pray? Why?

## Day Five – The Things We Need

1. Did you know that worship and prayer is an aroma that God finds irresistible? In the Bible, incense is a symbol of prayer. Every morning and every evening, Aaron the priest would burn aromatic incense on the altar so that there would be “perpetual incense before the Lord” (Exodus 30:8). God Himself gave the formula for this sweet-smelling savor. We even get a glimpse of earthly prayers from Heaven’s perspective. The prayers of God’s people, mixed with incense, rising before God’s throne (Revelation 8:3–4).

a. Instead of vain repetitions and much words, what did David want his prayers to be? Psalm 141:2

b. Prayer has a way of refining our heart. We learn to pray, not just for right things but also for the right reasons. What do you want your prayers to be?

**“After being with Jesus, half the questions that trouble you will be answered and the other half will not seem worth the asking.**

**You are His beloved and your heart can rest in that fact.”**

**C.H. Spurgeon  
“The Christ-Given Rest”**

### Memory Verse

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.  
Matthew 6:8 ESV

### Think it over . . .

Elisabeth Elliott said, “Never dig up in fear what you have already planted in faith.” Is there any replanting to be done today?

### After His Heart

“The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.” —2 Chronicles 16:9 NLT

**“God found in David a man who would stand in the gap, a man whose heart was fully committed to Him. Will He find that in you?”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

### Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 2 – Our Father

For John Mahony, a retired U.S. Army colonel, instinct kicked in first on the morning of September 11, 2001. The building jerked hard. “Earthquake,” said his California instinct. Mahony led his co-workers from the 19th floor, North Tower, to stairs filled with smoke and stunned evacuees. Fire sprinklers turned stairwells into waterfalls. Firefighters rushed up as frightened civilians stumbled down. Out of chaos, a familiar rhythm surfaced. His daily habit of saying the Lord’s Prayer settled his mind as the building writhed.

“At first I couldn’t get past the first part. Thy will be done. Thy will be done. But then it came and with it, peace. Jesus was right there with me, with all of us.” Despite the horror of that day, “I walked away with two priceless gifts—God’s peace with me every day, and the unshakeable power of a simple prayer.”

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover why there is power in this ancient prayer.
- Consider how the attributes of God instill confidence in our Father.
- Examine ways to develop and strengthen personal prayer habits.
- Pray honest prayers that expand understanding and hold steady with gratitude.

#### Ice Breaker

What is your favorite name for addressing God?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:9–13** and **Galatians 4:4–7** to get the overall idea. Follow the dialogue closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God’s ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.



## Day Two – Who Is Like Our God?

Jesus taught us to begin our prayer with worship, adoration, and praise. Remember how King David sat before the Lord and prayed, “Who am I, O Lord God...that You have brought me this far? For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears” (2 Samuel 7:18, 22 NKJV). Giving thought to who God is will give us every reason to echo David’s same prayer.

It’s a healthy and humbling experience to contemplate who God is—but it’s a lot like trying to drink Niagara Falls with a teacup! While God is too big for our minds to fully comprehend, He is near and wants to be known.

1. God’s attributes are essential qualities that are His alone. Meditating on these attributes strengthens our faith, and stirs awe and confidence in our Heavenly Father.

Give yourself time to read these verses. You don’t need to write them here, word for word, but make a note to help you remember what it says and how you might pray it back to God.

- a. **God is eternal.** As believers, we will live forever (immortality), but only God is eternal. We are created beings, but there has never been a time when God did not exist.

Exodus 3:14

Deuteronomy 33:27

Psalm 90:2

- b. **God is unchangeable.** God is immutable, which is to say He does not change. He has no need to grow or develop in character. He will not degenerate or cease to be perfect.

Psalm 102:25–27

Malachi 3:6a

James 1:17

- c. **God is all-knowing.** God is omniscient, which is to say He has complete and perfect knowledge. God is fully aware of all things at all times and has unlimited understanding.

Job 34:21

Psalm 139:1-6

Hebrews 4:13

- d. **God is ever-present.** God is omnipresent, which is to say He is present everywhere. At the same time, God is not limited by time and space. He exists outside of time and space.

Deuteronomy 4:39

Proverbs 15:3

Jeremiah 23:24

- e. **God is all-powerful.** God is omnipotent, which is to say that He has unlimited strength and the ability to accomplish all that He desires.

Job 42:2

Psalms 115:3

Jeremiah 32:27

2. When we settle our thoughts and worship God for *who He is* at the start of our prayer, what effect will it have on everything else that follows?

**Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

For us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him;  
and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist for Him.

1 Corinthians 8:6 NASB

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**Think it over**

What is the difference between “*from*” whom and “*by*” whom?

## Day Three – A Family Prayer

Read **Galatians 4:4–7** and **Romans 8:14–16**

The Lord's Prayer is a *family* prayer, but it's not for everyone. In one sense, we are all God's children because He created human beings. But the only way to become *family* with God is through faith in Jesus Christ.

1. We are so accustomed to this prayer that we can pass right over "Our Father" and not even notice the gospel in it!
  - a. Our **Father**. Prior to this, the name used most often was Yahweh (Lord) and it was so revered that, once written, it could not be erased. No devout Jew would presume to call God his own Father. How did Jesus make it possible for us to say Abba, Father?

John 1:12

Galatians 4:4–7

Romans 8:14–16

- b. **Our Father**. No Christian is an only child. We are family, not a loosely knit organization. The Lord taught us to pray *our* Father to remind us that prayer is not, (even when we're alone in the *secret place* Jesus spoke of), an all-about-me activity. Why is that good news?

Acts 1:14 and 2:42

Ephesians 6:18–19

Philippians 2:1–4

Colossians 1:9–12

2. What are some practical ways for us to pray with, and for, other Christians?

- a. Do you participate in praying with other believers on a regular basis? Would you like to? In what way?
  - b. What would you say is the greatest benefit you have experienced from praying with, and for, others?

**"God does not expect us to maintain the life of prayer in our own strength.**

**Jesus knows how weak we are. Therefore, when He teaches us to pray, He invites us into fellowship.**

**To pray is to practice the communion of the saints, which is the spiritual fellowship all Christians everywhere enjoy in Jesus Christ."**

Philip Graham Ryken

*When You Pray:*

*Making the Lord's Prayer Your Own*

## Memory Verse

For us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him;  
and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist for Him.  
1 Corinthians 8:6 NASB

## Think it over . . .

If I was more intentional about existing for God the Father each day, what would be different?

## Day Four – A Good, Good Father

### Ephesians 3:14–18 NLT

“When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, how deep His love is.”

1. The apostle Paul knew how to pray big prayers! Wouldn’t you like someone to pray this for you? Well in fact, he did! (By the way, we can pray this for others too.) This prayer is for those who have been adopted into the family of God.

Paul asks the Spirit to give us power to *understand* the love of God. The word *understand* means to jump on and wrestle to the ground. It reminds us of what nearly every child in every generation is compelled to do when they see their dad or grandpa laid out relaxing on the floor—jump ‘em! The idea here is, never outgrow the delight of tumbling around with how and why you were adopted into God’s family (aka *the joy of your salvation*). Here are the highlights; you fill in the details:

- a. Christ redeemed you (Galatians 3:13, Matthew 27:46). What did that cost Him?
- b. The Spirit of His Son confirmed it—welcome to the family (Galatians 4:6, Romans 8:16). Wow, what was that like for you?
- c. Your inheritance (Ephesians 1:1–14). Does that read like small print on a contract? No worries—just keep checking back, it’ll hit you.
- d. All-access pass (Ephesians 2:18). What’ll you do with that?
- e. New name, new identity (2 Corinthians 5:17). How’s that going?

- f. Bonus! Jesus has plans and He’s praying for you (John 17:1–26). Just read and say thanks!

### Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

For us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him;  
and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist for Him.

1 Corinthians 8:6 NASB

### And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 3 – Our Father in Heaven

“Who wants to go to Heaven?” the Sunday school teacher asked. All the boys and girls shot hands into the air. Except for Billy. He slid down in his chair and let out a sigh. “Billy,” the teacher gently asked, “wouldn’t you like to go to Heaven?” “Well...I *guess* so. But my mom said we could go to Disneyland after church. I really don’t want to miss that.”

Many people think like Billy. Heaven is up there, somewhere, someday. But we’re busy living, and Heaven? Truth be told, it feels like an interruption. It isn’t on our to-do list for today. Why not? When Heaven fills our thoughts, it’s more than a destination. It’s a motivation.

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover a glimpse of what Heaven will be like.
- Consider why being heavenly-minded is of great earthly good.
- Examine how Heaven is a destination *and* a motivation.
- Pray honest prayers that value eternal things more than earthly things.

#### Ice Breaker

What are some common misperceptions people have about Heaven?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:9–13**, **Colossians 3:1–2**, and **Revelation 22:1–5** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God’s ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Think Heaven

### Read Colossians 3:1–2

“Our Father in Heaven ...” When we fix our hearts and minds on things above, we begin to see how heavenly-mindedness shapes us for earthly good.

1. We can take comfort in praying, “our Father” because God is always accessible and actively engaged in our daily life. “He is not far from any one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:27–28 NIV). At the same time, God is so *transcendent* (beyond us) that even the heavens cannot contain Him (1 Kings 8:27).

How do these two truths about God factor in to the way that we think, live, and pray to our Father in Heaven? Briefly share your thoughts and then note some of David’s thoughts on the matter.

Psalm 8:3–5

Psalm 103:11–19

Psalm 139:1–12

- a. Do you believe that your Father in Heaven is listening, working, and looking after you? How does knowing this help you in the circumstances you face today?
2. How often do you think about Heaven? For most of us, except for seasons of grief or the realities of aging, Heaven doesn’t usually occupy our thoughts. But Colossians 3:1–2 instructs us to *keep seeking* (diligently, actively, single-mindedly) the things that are above and set your heart on Heaven. Share what that means for you in practical, everyday terms.
    - a. Does being heavenly-minded influence your daily choices and short-term goals? In what way?
    - b. Think of one or two specific things (e.g., a long-term goal, pursuit, relationship) that your heart and mind is set on. What helps you to keep it in proper perspective?

What is likely to hinder you?



3. **Seek** and **Set**. Paul used two words to state and re-state this command. “*Keep seeking*” describes a **mind-set**. “*Set*” describes a **heart-motive**. Are we splitting hairs, or is there a point? Well, Paul had just finished dismantling a cage that some rule-makers were trying to trap the Colossians in. “Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that comes from human thinking” (Colossians 2:8 NLT).

He reminded them to let their roots grow down and grow strong in the truth. Heaven was theirs because of faith in Jesus, not a bunch of powerless rules. They sound wise but they have absolutely no power to change you from the inside out. *You’re free to get on with your life in Christ.*

So . . . don’t live like you used to, don’t give in to all the dirty laundry behaviors you’ve left lying around in your heart (Colossians 3:5–9). Put them off—that’s the old you. Does it sound like Paul just gave them another set of impossibly difficult rules to follow? Not at all. He was giving them—and us—something much better to live for.

Consider again what it means to *keep* seeking and *set* our mind on Heaven. How does being heavenly-minded shape us for earthly good? Briefly share your thoughts.

- a. Let thoughts of Heaven fuel your mind to action.

**“Let me offer a fresh way to look at these all-too-human struggles. You don’t need to *turn away* from one thing as much as you need to *turn to* another.**

**What do you do when you want a child to let go of something? You put something better and more interesting in front of him—he will let go in a hurry to reach for that new something.**

**You and I need something more important to us than the earthly attractions that keep tripping us up. A new affection that causes that old thing to be seen for what it is, and I don’t want it anymore.**

**What is the new affection? Heaven.”**

Pastor Greg Laurie  
*Essentials*

- b. Give your heart to heavenly things, not to the passing things of earth.

**Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:1 ESV

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**Think it over . . .**

What does the metaphor of a tent and a building teach you about your life?

**Day Three – Breaking Camp****Read 2 Corinthians 5:1–7**

“Our Father in Heaven ...” The Bible promises that our resurrected bodies will be a new and improved, clearly unmistakable version of us.

1. As you read 2 Corinthians 5:1–7, give some thought to...
  - a. What is Paul most comforted by?
  - b. What is Paul most confident of?
  - c. What part, if any, do you find most difficult to wrap your head around?
  - d. Share one takeaway truth and why it ministers to you.

2. If you needed to explain to someone, who didn't know what having a resurrected body will be like, could you do it? (Without asking Pastor Greg or reading any other book but the Bible.) Note something from each of these verses—then choose one to explain in a little more detail.  
Please note: This is not a test and you will not be graded!

Job 19:25–27

1 Corinthians 15:42–44

Philippians 3:20–21

1 John 3:2

3. In one of his last recorded prayers, King David said, “We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace” (1 Chronicles 29:15 NLT).

And we all say ... amen. It's been wisely said that we cannot add years to our life, but we can add life to our years. Some take up that challenge and go after their bucket list. Others have been consistently building a legacy.

What do you want your spiritual legacy to be? What is on your *spiritual* bucket list?

### **Memory Verse**

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:1 ESV

### ***Think it over . . .***

What do you most look forward to about your resurrected body?

## Day Four – Someday ... Heaven!

### Read Revelation 22:1–5

“Our Father in Heaven...” Someday we will see Him face to face, but until then, we can see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living (Psalm 27:13).

1. Revelation 22:1–5 gives us an amazing glimpse of Heaven. Take your time reading these verses...there’s no hurry. We won’t cross-reference or look for deep meanings. Just read it as many times as you like and note what seems the same—and different—in heaven about:
  - a. Water
  - b. Street
  - c. Tree
  - d. Leaves
  - e. Fruit
  - f. People
  - g. Night
  - h. Light
  
2. When Moses said, “Please show me Your glory,” the Lord answered, “...you cannot see My face, for man shall not see Me and live” (Exodus 33:18, 20 ESV). So, it’s astounding to be told that in Heaven, we will see God’s face. Do we have to wait until Heaven to see God’s face and live?

In Western culture, when we speak to someone we look them in the face—not at their shoes, or beyond their shoulder to the wall behind them—to have meaningful communication.

When someone gives little or no eye contact during conversation it’s a sign of disinterest or distraction. From an early age, we teach our children to look at a person when they are being spoken to, as a sign of respect. In Middle Eastern cultures, strong eye contact *between men* is a sign of honesty and sincerity, a nonverbal way of saying *believe me when I say...*

God invites us to seek His face *today* and listen intently and believe (apply) what He says.

2 Chronicles 7:14–15

Psalm 27:4, 8, 13–14

Matthew 5:8

John 14:19–21

2 Corinthians 4:6

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:1 ESV

### And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 4 – Holy Is Your Name

Remember getting your first driver's license? It's a big day, but the car exam can be tense. One teenager almost had a perfect score on his test. "You did fine, only one mistake," the examiner said as he got out of the car. The boy sighed in relief, "I'm glad I don't have to drive that careful all the time!" That's how some Christians view holiness. On their best behavior at church but not that different from the world the rest of the time.

Jesus taught us to pray, "holy is Your name." Set apart, to honor His name and live a holy life.

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover the holiness of God's name.
- Consider why Jesus taught us to begin our prayers this way.
- Examine what God's names reveal about Him.
- Pray honest prayers that begin and end with worship.

#### Ice Breaker

In what ways is holiness viewed as an outdated concept for some people, even in the church?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:9–13**, **Isaiah 6:1–8**, and **John 17:1–6** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Holy, Holy, Holy

### Read Isaiah 6:1–8

To say “hallowed be Your name” does not mean we are praying for God’s name to be made holy. God’s name *is* holy. We are praying for God’s holy, refining presence to work in us to honor Him.

1. What does a name represent? In business, we think in terms of a brand. The name defines the product, the service, the identity. Having a good name is synonymous with recognition, influence, and success. In personal terms, we think of reputation—character and the qualities that make us essentially who we are.
2.
  - a. God’s name expresses and reflects His divine nature. He is who He is. When you think of God’s name and nature, what comes to mind? How would you describe God?
  
  - b. Why do you think Jesus taught us to begin our prayers by hallowing God’s name?
3. Have you ever prayed to feel the Lord’s presence? Like a song, we welcome God’s Spirit to come fill the atmosphere and let us experience the glory of His goodness. When it comes from a true heart, it’s music to God’s ears. It’s the prayer He will answer. Consider how the Lord did this for Isaiah.
  - a. What did Isaiah see and hear and feel? Is this different from what we usually have in mind when we picture coming into God’s presence? In what way?
  
  - b. What did Isaiah realize and confess about himself? Why will this always be a consistent part of truly experiencing God’s presence? Do you welcome it? Why or why not?
  
  - c. “I am undone” is a response God will always hear and accept. “It’s no big deal” is *never* acceptable. Isaiah’s vision changed his understanding of God’s holy response to sin and it can change ours. In what way?

Isaiah 8:13

Isaiah 59:1–2

Isaiah 57:15–16



4. When God wants to use a man or woman, He lets them feel deeply their need for Him, and then He will light a fire in them. God chose Isaiah to call his generation back to holiness. But first, Isaiah needed a personal experience of God’s mercy and forgiveness that would give him purpose and stir him to say, “Here am I, send me.”

- a. “In the year that King Uzziah died.” This was an unsettling event for the nation, and Isaiah in particular. His earthly king turned out to be a hero with feet of clay. Now he was gone. Judah was in a deep moral slide, too corrupt to change and too comfortable to care. How disheartening. Isaiah had nothing but woe and judgment to proclaim to his people. Until he saw the Lord. How did Isaiah’s encounter with the Lord change what mattered to him?

Uzziah was king of Judah for 52 years. He did right in the Lord’s sight and God blessed him. Everything he touched prospered. The nation was strong and stable during his reign. But pride was his undoing (2 Chronicles 26:16).

Uzziah felt entitled to take the priest’s place, in direct violation of God’s holiness. Instead of repenting when he was confronted, he got angry and defiant. Uzziah took the censer and went to the altar, where he was immediately struck with leprosy. Sadly, Uzziah spent his last years in isolation, a leper until the day he died.

Can you identify with Isaiah? In what way?

- b. King Uzziah’s attempt to barge into God’s presence on his own terms ended badly. What had he failed to understand about God? What do we learn from him?

5. Like live coals from the altar, it will hurt at some level to experience holiness. God is a refining fire, intent on making us holy (Malachi 3:2–3). Our holy life began with salvation—not by any doing of ours, but by what Jesus our Savior did for us (Titus 3:4–7). From that moment until our last breath, we are being sanctified, set apart for God’s purposes and glory.

Job 23:10

1 Peter 1:6–7

When, and in what way, are you most aware of God’s refining fire?

### Memory Verse

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods?  
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?  
Exodus 15:11 ESV

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**Think it over . . .** What will you praise God for today?

## Day Three – Holiness Is Christ in Me

### Read John 17:3–5, 17–19

What is the most effective way to honor God’s name as holy? By being holy. This John 17 prayer (the real Lord’s prayer) is what Jesus prayed for us. In this session, we look at a few key verses, but read the entire prayer for yourself. It is time well spent.

Everything that Jesus came to do is compressed into a few words (John 17:3–5). In those few simple verses, we see all eternity in the planning, accomplished in thirty-three years, so that we can live forever. Think about it.

- a. What is eternal life?
  - b. Why did Jesus come?
  - c. Where is He now?
2. Jesus prayed for us to be holy (John 17:17–19). Holiness is not an optional, deluxe version of salvation. If Jesus died to make us holy, then holy we must be. Consider what that means.
- a. Can we identify holiness when we see it? What does it look like to you?
  - b. Some associate holiness with being austere and rigid. Does that describe Jesus? What was it about Jesus that attracted people to Him?
3. Holiness is the most important thing about us because it gives weight to our words and life with others. It’s our voice, even when we don’t speak, to draw people to want to know God. Briefly note what holiness “looks like” in normal, everyday life.

Matthew 5:14–16

Romans 12:1–2

1 Peter 3:15–16

**“What do your children,  
your family, your friends,  
need most from you?  
Your personal holiness.**

**Whatever else you think  
is more important than  
holiness . . . isn’t.”**

Timothy Keller

Think of someone who was instrumental in bringing you to Jesus. Share how their life and witness influenced you.

4. “Hallowed be Your name” means: (Check all that apply.)
- a. It’s simply a polite and respectful way to start your prayer. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Worship and adoration of God for who He is and what He does. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. An expression of devotion, “You are first in my heart and in my life.” \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. An expressed pledge to represent God in our actions and attitudes. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. A petition that more people would come to know God and honor His name. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Add your own thought. \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?  
Exodus 15:11 ESV

### *Think it over . . .*

How have you seen God at work in the lives of your family and friends? What will you pray for them today?

### Day Four – What’s in a Name?

#### Psalm 9:10

Those who know Your name will put their trust in You.

God’s name is glorified and our faith is made strong when we pray, knowing God’s character and His ways. Some of God’s names are listed for you here, with space between for you to record your own thoughts and response.

1. **Yahweh** (Jehovah) – I AM (Genesis 2:4, Exodus 3:14). With this name, God reveals that He is self-existent. No beginning, no end. All of God’s names stem from His works except this one. This is the name that fully expresses God’s being.
2. **Elohim** – Creator (Genesis 1:1). This is the name that reveals God to us at the beginning of time. Not His beginning, for Elohim has always existed and time is part of His creation. God wasn’t just hovering out in space—He created space too. God transcends time, space, and matter. Elohim is a *plural* name, indicating the triune nature of God.

3. **El-Shaddai** – God Almighty (Genesis 17:1). The Lord used this name when He made the covenant with Abraham. It expresses God’s unlimited power and unfailing faithfulness. Nothing is too hard for God and He always keeps His promises.
4. **Adonai** – My Lord (Genesis 15:2, 2 Samuel 7:18). This name recognizes God’s rule and divine ownership. He is Lord of all and takes loving responsibility for the care and wellbeing of His servants and His creation.
5. **Jehovah-Jireh** – The Lord our Provider (Genesis 22:14). We’re familiar with Abraham’s test of obedience and how the Lord blessed him for holding nothing back. God saw and God provided.
6. **Jehovah-Tsaba** – The Lord our Warrior (1 Samuel 17:45). This is the name that David invoked when he fought Goliath. Perspective is everything. David saw Goliath’s size but his focus was on the King of the universe, mighty in power. David habitually kept a sense of awe for God and His glory, and that cut his enemy down to size.
7. **Jehovah-Rapha** – The Lord our Healer (Exodus 15:25–26). This name refers to God’s healing of infirmities of body, mind, and spirit. The Israelite’s situation at Marah points to an important truth that God not only heals but also has a purpose for our pain and problems.

### **Memory Verse**

Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?  
Exodus 15:11 ESV

### ***Think it over . . .***

Which of God’s names puts your current circumstances into perspective? What will you trust Him to do with you, for you, through you?

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?  
Exodus 15:11 ESV

### And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 5 – Your Kingdom Come

On June 6, 1944, the Allied Forces invaded German troops on the coast of Normandy, France. The D-Day invasion signaled the beginning of the end of World War II. There were more battles to be fought, but Hitler's defeat was sealed. Victory would come and Europe would be liberated.

When Jesus went to the cross, it was D-Day for the kingdom of God. Sin and death were defeated and the devil now fights a losing battle. We live in the "now" of Christ's reign in our lives and look forward to the "not yet," when Jesus returns to establish His kingdom on earth. In the meantime, there are battles to fight and captives to be set free.

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover how to live and look forward to the Lord's return.
- Consider the ways we can be salt and light in today's culture.
- Examine who and what we live for.
- Pray honest prayers to spread good news and hold steady with hope.

#### Ice Breaker

Can you think of a recent answer to prayer that took you completely by surprise?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 5:1–12** and **Luke 8:4–15** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Your Kingdom Come, My Kingdom Go

### Read Matthew 5:1–12.

When we pray, “Your kingdom come,” we are praying for God to reign in us, here and now, as we live and look forward to the day when Jesus returns.

1. In Luke’s account of the Beatitudes, Jesus contrasts the blessings of living for God’s kingdom with the sorrows of living only for this world (see Luke 6:24–26). It’s as though Jesus is asking, what do you most want out of life? Woe—*alas, how sad for you*—if this is what you make your life about. Are these the same things that people live for today? In what way?

2. What does following Jesus mean for every individual, whatever our ordinary life and daily routine may be?

Matthew 16:24–25

John 14:21

John 15:16

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

**You can’t pray, “Your kingdom come”  
until you are prepared to pray,  
“My kingdom go.”**

**Are you willing to do that?  
Until we give God permission to  
supplant or even dismantle our  
personal kingdom—  
our own wants, desires,  
priorities, plans, and goals—  
we can’t really pray  
“Your kingdom come”  
with any integrity.**

Pastor Greg Laurie  
*Essentials*

3. The “be” attitudes are not a list of commands—they are a description of Christ-follower traits, a standard of conduct. When we live these out, we are a visible demonstration of an otherwise invisible (to unbelievers) grace that we live in *and oftentimes take for granted*.

As you go through this list, keep in mind these aren’t like spiritual gifts, where the Spirit chooses to give each one of us some but not others. These are the standard for every citizen in God’s kingdom. But you *will* see the *fruit* of the Spirit at work.

Read each “be” attitude and answer these questions: How is this different from the world’s standard practice? How does it make *me* different? What fruits of the Spirit are evident? (See Galatians 5:22–23.)

- a. Poor in spirit – Matthew 5:3. We are utterly destitute of any claim to goodness within ourselves. As the old hymn goes, “Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to the cross I cling.”
- b. Those who mourn – Matthew 5:4. Jesus used the strongest word for *mourn* here. Grief that strips and stuns to the core of your soul. We mourn for all kinds of reasons: loss, regrets, circumstances, sins. God is our unflinching source of consolation (Psalm 94:19).



- c. Meek – Matthew 5:5. A forbearing spirit; strength under control. The proper balance between anger and indifference. Strong enough to suffer wrong without bitterness or desire for revenge.
- d. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness – Matthew 5:6. Jesus chose words that mean *famished* and *insatiable thirst* for the desire to be in a right relationship with God.
- e. Merciful – Matthew 5:7. Mercy has been rightly described as God’s heart in action. He is moved with compassion toward us. Remember the term *pay it forward*? God’s mercy and kindness to us put us in a position to be merciful and kind to others.
- f. Pure in heart – Matthew 5:8. An unpolluted, undivided heart. Pure in the sense of a clean, forgiven heart. Pure in the sense of a wholly devoted heart—no competing idols.
- g. Peacemakers – Matthew 5:9. One who actively makes peace *with* others (Romans 12:18) and actively brings peace *to* others by sharing the gospel (2 Corinthians 5:18–20).
- h. Persecuted for righteousness’ sake – Matthew 5:10–12. This may be the blessing no one wants to claim, but Jesus said that it’s part of being identified with Him (2 Timothy 3:12).

Jesus pronounced us *blessed* or happy. We usually think of happiness as being comfortable or trouble-free. This “happy” is more like *serene*. It’s an unshakeable sense of well-being that is not dependent on outward circumstances.

**Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”  
Mark 1:15 NKJV

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**Think it over . . .**

What aspect of your personal “kingdom” is difficult for you to let go?

## Day Three – Salt, Light, and Soil

### Read Matthew 5:13–16 and Luke 8:4–15.

When we pray, “Your kingdom come,” we are praying for God’s people to be about God’s business of proclaiming the gospel.

1. What do salt and light have in common? In a word, *influence*. After describing what makes a Christian distinct from the world, Jesus used the metaphor of salt and light to illustrate the influence we are meant to have in our culture.

If we want to be salt and light, it helps to be clear what we are aiming for. Do we want the *insta*-influence or the long-obedience-in-the-same-direction version? It’s easier than ever before to access spiritual wisdom from godly influencers. And it’s never been more challenging to cultivate it for ourselves. If we want others to know that we follow Jesus on more than our social media, what will that require? Share your thoughts. (Post them too, if you’d like.)

2. Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone” (Mark 16:15 NLT). The only way people come into God’s kingdom is by hearing *and responding* to the gospel. Our part is to spread the seed as frequently and far as we can, and pray. Only God can change a heart and life. But we can always improve on our delivery. The Parable of the Sower, which is really more about the soil, can help.\* Give some thought and response to the following observations.
  - a. Jesus likens the Word of God to a seed, not a boulder. Consider the difference. For example, a seed penetrates soil—vs—a boulder pulverizes soil. A seed germinates and grows—vs—a boulder smothers any chance of growth beneath where it lands.
  - b. The sower scattered the seed freely as he walked through the field. There’s no indication he was concerned about wasting seed or limiting it to areas he deemed to be good soil.
  - c. Think of your own salvation experience. Did you hear and respond to the gospel right away? Which of the soils (any or all) could you identify with at some point before you were saved? Perhaps even after you were saved? In what way?

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\* You can compare this with the parallel accounts in Matthew 13 and Mark 4 if you like.



## Day Four – Come Lord Jesus

### 1 Peter 4:7

“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.”

“It’s time.” Two simple words with the power to summon up a range of emotions. A sentimental whisper from a father as he walks his daughter down the aisle. For one awaiting test results, it’s the pulse-quickenning announcement that the doctor will see you now. Uttered by an expectant mom, those words set joy into motion. Imagine what it will be like when the one saying, “It’s time,” is Jesus, our returning Lord and King!

1. “Come, Lord Jesus” is the last prayer in the entire Bible (Revelation 22:20). This is what we are asking when we pray, “Your kingdom come.” Someday the Lord will answer that prayer! How should we live as we look forward to the Lord’s return? Read Titus 2:11–15 and answer in your own words.
  
2. What are some specific ways we can be serious and watchful in our prayers for . . .
  - a. The church and our church leaders.
  
  - b. Our nation and our elected officials.
  
  - c. Believers proclaiming the gospel worldwide.
  
3. “Your kingdom come” means: (Check all that apply.)
  - a. Solving social problems and eliminating evil. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Expressing unconditional obedience to God’s reign in my heart and life. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. A prayer for the gospel to be preached in all the world. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Anticipation for the Lord’s return. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Add your own thought. \_\_\_\_\_

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”  
Mark 1:15 NKJV

### And When You Pray . . .

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 6 – Your Will Be Done

Jim Elliot was not well known during his lifetime. He grew up in Portland, Oregon, the son of a Plymouth Brethren evangelist. At Wheaton College, he courted and married a missionary's daughter named Elisabeth. His passion to preach the gospel and see people saved is what led him to Ecuador. *"Lord, fill preachers and preaching with Thy power,"* he wrote in his journal. God answered Jim Elliot's prayer. Martyred by a handful of people he hoped to reach in life, he touched millions with the gospel, including his martyrs, in death. Jim Elliot didn't seek fame, he simply chose to serve the Lord with the grain of wheat he'd been given (John 12:24).

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover the secret of a satisfied life.
- Consider how praying God's will affects your outlook.
- Examine the connection between prayer and praise.
- Pray honest prayers that lead to surrender and transformation.

#### Ice Breaker

By nature, are you are more of a leader? Or a follower? How so?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Proverbs 3:5–6**, **Romans 12:1–2**, and **1 Thessalonians 5:16–18** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Trust and Obey

Read Proverbs 3:5–6 and Psalm 37:1–11.

1. Are we honestly prepared to pray “*Your will be done*” without tacking on a conditional clause here or there? God knows what is best for us and we are usually inclined to agree. Except, of course, when we have a different idea.

- a. **trust** (verb) 1. to believe in the honesty and integrity of; 2. to rely or depend on; 3. to follow without fear of the outcome.

Have you ever trusted God and regretted it? Why or why not?

Have you ever failed to trust God and regretted it? Why or why not?

- b. **acknowledge** (verb) 1. to recognize the authority or claims of; 2. to confess to be true; 3. to express thanks for.

In keeping with each of the three definitions, what will you acknowledge about God’s care and concern for you today?

2. **“I trust God, but sometimes I just can’t figure Him out.”** If we haven’t actually said it, we’ve thought it! David felt the same way when he prayed, “How long, Lord?” (Psalm 13:2). *How long must I wrestle my own thoughts and walk around with a knot in my stomach? What am I missing here, God?* David learned to pray his troubles and leave them with God.

David had a habit of preaching to himself, and we should too. It’s easy to get caught in the crossfire of methods the world offers to get what you want, and lose sight of what God knows is best. Give some thought to David’s advice in Psalm 37:1–11. Put it in practical terms that you can apply to your life.

- a. Trust and do good – verse 3:
- b. Dwell and feed – verse 3:
- c. Delight and He will give – verse 4:
- d. Commit and He will do – verse 5:



- e. Rest and wait patiently – verse 7:
  - f. Do not fret – verse 8:
  - g. Cease from anger, forsake wrath – verse 8:
  - h. Wicked living won't prevail – verse 10. We use *wicked* to describe very bad people, but the biblical definition is *guilty*. It describes anyone who lives as though God does not matter.
  - i. Humble strength succeeds in the long run – verse 11:
3. Has praying for God's will to be done ever changed your outlook on circumstances or your attitude toward another person? In what way?
4. God has a unique plan for each of us but certain things are God's will for *all* of us. What can you confidently know is part of God's will for you as you pray and cooperate with His leading?

Romans 5:3–5

Colossians 4:2, 5–6

James 1:5

1 John 5:14–15

### **Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV

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### **Think it over . . .**

When and what was the last thing you specifically thanked God for?

## Day Three – I Surrender All

### Read Romans 12:1–2.

Christians are different—*peculiar*, as an old Bible translation puts it. Our neighbors might agree. There are things about the way we live that don't make sense except in terms of eternity.

1. When we pray, “Your will be done” we are aligning our will with God’s. In this phrase, we anticipate the day when earth’s business will be carried out the same way it is right this moment in Heaven—obedience to God every time, all the time. In this phrase, we also pray *and let it begin, here and now, with me.*

a. **“It’s a good thing God doesn’t give me everything I ask for.”** Most of us will gratefully admit we don’t always know what’s best for us. We pray with limited knowledge and at times in our own self-interest. But our Father in Heaven knows best. When has a “no” or “not yet” answer to prayer stretched your faith? In what way?

b. **“It’s a good thing to give God everything that *He* asks for.”** This goes right to the heart of what Romans 12:1–2 is about. To live for God, we surrender our entire self to Him—all that we are and all that we have to offer.

*By the mercies of God* – If we skim over this phrase without letting it sink in, we are likely to be overwhelmed. Why is God’s mercy the key element of being able to align our will with God’s?

**“The real secret  
of an unsatisfied life  
lies too often  
in an  
unsurrendered will.”**

Hudson Taylor

*Don’t be conformed...be transformed* – Surrender can be passive, or it can be active. Passive surrender lets the world squeeze us into its mold. Active surrender chooses to obey God’s Word and cooperate with God’s Spirit to change the way we think and live our lives. Which do you choose?

Refusing to conform to the world’s script for living comes with assurances that God will support your decision. What can you be certain of?

John 14:16–17

2 Corinthians 4:7–10

2 Corinthians 4:17–18

Hebrews 13:20–21

2. God has a plan and always finishes what He begins (Philippians 1:6). But He does not force us to submit our will to Him. Where is the motivation to pray, “I surrender all” to be found? Consider what happened to the only man who ever totally surrendered to God’s will.

- a. What was Jesus’ attitude toward doing the Father’s will?

John 4:34

John 6:38

John 8:29

Philippians 2:5–8

- b. We may say that a child who resists their parent has a strong will. The question is, what kind? Jesus’ prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane took the greatest strength of will there could ever be. From what you read in the text, describe the emotional anguish Jesus endured and His resolve in praying, “*Your will be done.*” What is most striking to you?

Matthew 26:36–46

Hebrews 5:7–9

3. Every one of us is born a rebel. We deserve to have our prayers go unanswered. But Jesus illustrated why we can be confident that God will hear our prayers (Luke 11:11–13). What father, if his son asks for a fish, would give him a snake instead? If he asked for an egg, would his father give him a scorpion? If an earthly father wants nothing but the best for his child, how much more does our Father in Heaven?

Put another way, “We know God will answer us when we call because one terrible day He did *not* answer Jesus when *He* called” (Matthew 27:46).<sup>1</sup>

When we struggle with surrendering our will on any point, a fresh reminder of the gospel can give us the necessary change of heart. Is there something in your life that you want, but don’t have? Something you have, but don’t want? God has a purpose for allowing—or *not* allowing it at this time.

When you take inventory of what is most precious to you, what does surrendering it back to the Lord look like?

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<sup>1</sup> Timothy Keller, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, pg. 237

## Memory Verse

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV

### *Think it over . . .*

Are you more likely to express your thanks with words or with actions?

## Day Four – The Connection Between Prayer and Praise

### Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18.

We have said it before and it bears repeating. Troubles, prayed through honestly and with praise, will change your outlook.

In context, these verses are included in a list of instructions given to the church to be applied individually and during public worship. The last phrase\* applies to all three commands.

Prayer and praise is not just to make us feel better—though it does! Prayer and praise is giving God the glory, honor, and worship that is due to Him for who He is. Give some thought to what that looks like. Give a personal example. Then explain why, and in what way, we practice this together in worship as the body of Christ.

1. **Rejoice always.** Circumstances and emotions change but joy remains.
2. **Pray without ceasing.** Mindful of God’s continuous presence and our ongoing dependence.
3. **In everything give thanks;** *for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.\**

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV

### And When You Pray . . .

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 7 – Our Daily Bread

The 2017 World Happiness Report is out and it's official—Norway is the happiest country on earth, in spite of declining income and freezing weather. Ratings are based on a Gallup poll that uses six variables to measure happiness: income, healthy life expectancy, someone to count on in times of trouble, generosity, freedom, and trust (a perceived absence of corruption in business and government). People were asked to rate their life from “worst possible” to “best possible” on a scale of 0 to 10. Norway credits “high levels of trust and generosity” for its top rank. In spite of improved income and life expectancy, the U.S. dropped to No. 14 down from last year. Why so sad? The report concludes that Americans are looking for happiness “in all the wrong places.”

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover true happiness in trusting God for our daily needs.
- Consider how prayer and God's Word align our hearts back to God's desires.
- Examine why a “do nothing” attitude can actually be a good thing.
- Pray honest prayers that lead to dependence and authentic contentment in life.

#### Ice Breaker

What has been in your “top five” list of prayer requests lately?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:11, Philippians 4:11–13, 19** and **Luke 11:5–13** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Are We Content to Depend on Him?

Read **Matthew 6:11** and **Philippians 4:11–13, 19**.

As Jesus taught us to pray for *our daily bread*, He gives us the right perspective. We are reminding ourselves to depend on God for our material needs and be content with all that He provides.

1. Asking for *daily bread* would remind the people of their ancestors who lived on the manna that God provided every morning. They were to gather only what they needed for the day and use all they collected. When they tried to save it, the manna turned rancid (Exodus 16).

**“We’re tired of the same old nourishing, miraculous bread.”**

Consider how the people responded to God’s provision. At first, they were fascinated with it and tried to hoard it. Then they took it for granted. Soon they were dissatisfied with it and began to complain. Before long, they scorned what God gave them and craved food from Egypt.

Put yourself in Israel’s shoes (which, by the way, did not wear out during their forty-year timeout for poor choices). God met their needs but they struggled with wanting something more, or other. What would you do in a similar position? What can we learn from Israel?

2. When it comes to material things, our *wants* and *needs* often change. We can, and should, make the most of what we’ve been entrusted with. The satisfaction that comes from stuff has a pretty short shelf life—but there’s no expiration date on our relationship with God, and that’s where contentment is stored.
  - a. Writing to the Philippians (from prison) Paul said, “I have *learned* to be content ...” It did not come naturally and it was more than a feeling that comes and goes. From past experience, what could Paul confidently say about God?
  - b. Maybe you relate to Paul’s experience in some way. Paul didn’t say he was content *with* his circumstances. Life was abruptly altered by events beyond his control and the future was unclear. Do you find yourself pressed into God, taking it one day at a time? Briefly share how God is sustaining and teaching you.

### **“What is it?”**

Manna was like coriander seed, similar in size to a small peppercorn. It had to be gathered before the day got warm or it dissolved. A day’s portion was about two quarts, per person. It was ground into flour and baked, or it was boiled. It tasted like a honey wafer. It was Israel’s staple food for 40 years until the next generation entered the Promised Land. It ceased as suddenly as it first came.



3. We should never hesitate to ask God for our material wants and needs. It's not about seeking riches or fearing you'll be poor. It's about seeking God to give us what *He* knows we need in order to live and serve Him well.

God balances our expectations and aligns our hearts back to His desires when we pour all our requests through the purifying filter of His Word. If we are content to depend on *Him* what can we be certain of?

**“God will only give you what you would have asked for if you knew everything He knows.”**

Timothy Keller

Proverbs 30:8–9

Matthew 6:32–34

Philippians 2:13–14

1 Timothy 6:6–8

Hebrews 13:5–6

### **Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

“My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 4:19 NKJV

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### **Think it over . . .**

Choose which word in this verse to put the emphasis on as you pray it today.

## Day Three – Asking God for Our Needs

### Read Luke 11:5–13.

Praying for our needs reminds us that we are in generous and capable hands. Do we believe it? God is ready, willing and able to give us this day, and every day, all that we need.

1. If God already knows what we need, why pray? Whatever your request may be, what can you always rely on Him to do for you?

Isaiah 30:18

Jeremiah 33:2–3

John 16:24

Hebrews 4:15–16

Ephesians 3:20–21

2. **God is not your grumpy neighbor** – Luke 11:5–8. Jesus isn't suggesting that God is like a grumpy neighbor who must be badgered into answering prayer. By *contrast*, our Heavenly Father is pleased and ready to answer when we persist in prayer.
  - a. What are some reasons, besides a clear answer from God, that we might give up and quit praying about something?
  - b. Give an example of when you have prayed persistently and God answered. Has it made a difference in the way you approach prayer? In what way?
3. **How much more?** – Luke 11:9–13. Jesus brought His point home by appealing to every father in the crowd. Who would ever think of putting their own child in harm's way or neglect their basic needs? Just as a father takes good care of his kids, God loves to provide all our needs.
  - a. Do you find it easy to trust God to provide for your needs? Why or why not?
  - b. In what ways are you most mindful of your daily dependence on God? In what ways do you tend to be self-reliant?

4. By the way, God also knows what we *don't* need, so let's cross these things off our list. Note what the following scriptures say and how it personally applies to you in this season of life.

No need to worry – Matthew 6:25

No need to fear – Isaiah 41:10

No need to be anxious – Philippians 4:6–7

No need to strive – Matthew 6:19–21

**Memory Verse**

“My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 4:19 NKJV

***Think it over . . .***

Now choose a different word in this verse to put the emphasis on as you pray today.

## Day Four – Obeying God for Others’ Needs

### 1 John 3:16–18 (ESV)

“By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

By asking God to give *us* our bread, we identify with the needs of others and especially the poor. How can we pray *give us* and not be *givers* ourselves?

1. Jesus told the story of a man who was richly blessed but had a severe case of “I” trouble (Luke 12:17–21). There was nothing improper with the way he gained wealth or what he possessed. But he failed to see beyond doing what made him happy, with no thought for God or others.

a. Whether we have much or little, we do well to remember that life does not consist in the abundance of what we possess. God promises to bless us when we give with the right attitude. What should be our motive in giving?

Proverbs 3:9–10

2 Corinthians 9:6–8

b. God calls us to also be generous with our time, energy, and service. What might that look like?

Matthew 25:34–40

James 2:15–17

2. With all this talk of what we can do for others, it really takes a “do nothing” attitude to please the Lord. According to Philippians 2:3–4, what is it?

3. “Give us our daily bread” means: (Check all that apply.)

a. Hot biscuits and butter every day. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Acknowledges our Heavenly Father is generous and willing to bless us. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Expresses our dependence upon God for every part of life. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Expresses our commitment to be generous toward others. \_\_\_\_\_

e. Add your own thought. \_\_\_\_\_

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

“My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 4:19 NKJV

### And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 8 – Forgive Us Our Debts

Debt is a way of life for most people. As American as apple pie—and that pie is getting expensive. In 2016, the average household with credit card debt carried a monthly balance of \$16,748. Add a mortgage, a car loan, and a student loan and that balance jumps to more than \$270,000. Yikes. Fortunately, the experts have some advice . . . you may want to write this down . . . ready? Here it is. Try to increase income and cut expenses. Not the answer you wanted? Please keep reading.

Taking on debt is a short-term fix with costly, long-term results. This is not new, but it is still true. Especially when the debt we're talking about is sin.

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover why forgiven people must be forgiving people.
- Consider the debt you could never repay and no longer owe.
- Examine your capacity for extending forgiveness.
- Pray honest prayers that lead to forgiveness and mercy as a way of life.

#### Ice Breaker

If you could sum up forgiveness in three short rules, what would they be?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:12, 14–15** and **1 John 1:8–9** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Forgive Us Our Debts

### Read Matthew 6:12, 14–15 and Luke 15:11–32.

When we pray *forgive us our debts*, we are following the Lord’s instruction to keep short accounts with sin. At the end of the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus shows how our willingness to forgive others will affect our capacity to experience forgiveness and remain in unbroken fellowship with God.

1. Halfway through this prayer, we come to what may be the hardest part. Here it is. Forgive. Asking for forgiveness and extending it to others don’t come naturally for us, but that is what Jesus commands us to do. And He is the consummate authority on forgiveness.
  - a. Is forgiveness essential to you in everyday life? Why or why not?
  - b. Asking forgiveness can sometimes be more difficult than extending it. In what way?

If this aspect of the Lord’s Prayer isn’t a consistent part of our prayers, we may need to ask God to help us see our sins as He does. (Now that’s a prayer He will answer.)

2. **A Tale of Two Sons** – Luke 15:11–32. Jesus told the story of a young man who squandered his inheritance, living the high life until the money (and his friends) ran out. Desperate, he begged a local farmer for a job and ended up feeding hogs. Bankrupt and broken, he came to his senses and wanted to go home.
  - a. The son rehearses in his own mind what to say to his father. From what you can tell, describe how the young man sees himself now. What does he muster up enough hope to ask for, and how does his father respond?
  - b. The story doesn’t stop at the son’s homecoming. Jesus went on to talk about the older son who would not forgive his brother and refused to join the feast. As a result, the older son cut himself off from fellowship with his brother *and also* with his father. Explain how this illustrates and drives home the point of Jesus’ warning in Matthew 6:14–15.\*

**Believers who refuse  
to confess their sins  
or to forgive  
the sins of others  
only rob themselves of  
the blessings  
God has  
prepared for them.**

Warren Wiersbe

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\*Jesus issues this warning to *believers* who refuse to forgive; the Lord’s Prayer is a *family* prayer. Forgiveness that leads to salvation cannot be earned; but refusing to forgive breaks fellowship with God and is part of our loving Father’s discipline. Forgiving is not optional for a believer.



3. Does thinking about your sinfulness in terms of debt change or deepen your understanding of God's forgiveness? In what way?

### **Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 ESV

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### ***Think it over . . .***

Is this a promise you regularly claim and exercise? Why or why not?

### **Day Three – As We Forgive Our Debtors**

#### **Read Matthew 18:21–35.**

The Bible describes sin in a variety of ways. It defiles us, ensnares us; it crouches at the door. Sin blinds us, deceives us; it binds like chains. It's a heavy burden, cords of wickedness. Sin causes us to miss the mark, to stumble in the dark; it leads us astray. And in this prayer, Jesus calls our sin a debt we can't possibly repay.

1. **A Tale of Two Debtors** – Matthew 18:21–35. One day, Peter asked Jesus how often we should forgive a brother who sins against us. This parable illustrates how forgiven people must be forgiving people.
  - a. The first man owed a billion-dollar debt and pleaded for time to repay it. The master saw his impossible situation and was moved with compassion. Instead of simply giving the debtor more time, how did the master respond to this man's plea for patience?
  - b. The first debtor left there with a clean slate and a new lease on life. But what did he do? He found a fellow servant who owed him a few hundred dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded payment. He refused his friend's plea for patience and chose retribution instead. Explain how this also illustrates and drives home the point of Jesus' warning in Matthew 6:14–15.

2. As it has often been said, when you forgive, you set a prisoner free—yourself. Please listen carefully. Forgiveness is not always a one-stop, get-it-right-the-first-time effort. But God will honor every endeavor to make forgiveness and mercy-giving a way of life for you. You have His Word on it. Take note of the instructions and promises God gives us in these verses.

Psalm 66:18

Mark 11:25

Matthew 5:23–24

3. Looking back, how have you grown closer to God in a season of needing to receive or extend forgiveness? Briefly share one or two insights you gained about God.
4. Which of the following statements are accurate? (Check all that apply.)
- a. Forgiving our debtors condones bad behavior. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Forgiving our debtors requires an apology first. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Forgiving our debtors removes their accountability to God. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Forgiving our debtors sets us free from anger, bitterness, and resentment. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Forgiving our debtors keeps us in unbroken fellowship with God. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Add your own thought. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Memory Verse**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 ESV

### ***Think it over . . .***

Is there any limit or expiration date on this promise? Is there a condition on this promise?

## Day Four – Spiritual Growth and Prayer

### 1 John 1:8–9 ESV

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Today is a simple exercise in meditating on 1 John 1:8–9, which includes this week’s memory verse. As we near the finish of our **Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer** series, assess your own spiritual growth and prayer. This is *not* a test—just a tool to get you thinking. Put an X on the line wherever it best represents your personal growth from the beginning of this study up to now.

Am I more sensitive to conviction of sin?

← Less Same More →

Am I quicker to repent of sin or to rationalize sin?

← Repent Same Rationalize →

Am I to quicker to forgive? To seek forgiveness?

← Less Same More →

Am I more confident to pray with others? To pray for others?

← Less Same More →

Note and record any additional thoughts or observations as you like.

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 ESV

### And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 9 – Lead Us Not into Temptation

Trouble. As Job said, we are born to it as surely as the sparks fly upward. There is no such thing as a trouble-free life. Think of the caterpillar being transformed into a butterfly. Hard to imagine such an earthbound, grubby little creature could ever fly! But something happens inside that cocoon. When the time comes to emerge, the young butterfly works hard to break through that chrysalis. Without struggle, it would have puny little wings and no strength to fly.

Troubles and temptation are not easy and certainly not pleasant. But God permits the struggle so we can emerge from that chrysalis of testing with fully developed faith.

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover the difference between troubles and temptation.
- Consider how God uses life's problems and our prayers to accomplish His plan.
- Examine why God stores His treasure in jars of clay.
- Pray honest prayers that lead to praise and hold steady with hope.

#### Ice Breaker

Our culture changes the meaning of words like *sinful* or *tempting* in ordinary conversation. In what ways? How might that minimize their effectiveness in the church?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:13**, **John 17:14–17** and **1 Peter 5:6–10** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Real Change Is an Inside Job

### Read James 1:12–14.

When we pray *lead us not into temptation*, we’re asking God to protect us from ambush by the enemy’s tactics and our own weakness. At the same time, it’s a prayer for strength to endure troubles that test our faith.

1. Jesus taught the disciples to pray for protection from temptation. The Lord knew perfectly well what His followers would be up against. It isn’t a sin to be tempted, for even Jesus faced temptation and left us an example to follow. How is temptation resisted and overcome?

Matthew 4:1–11

James 4:7–8

2. In the Lord’s Prayer, the word used for temptation also means testing. Using James 1:12–14, explain the difference between a test (trial) and being tempted.

**“I have had more  
trouble with myself  
than with any other  
man I have ever  
met.”**

D.L. Moody

God does not prevent us from being tempted, but He will always provide a way out. When trouble comes, by temptation or through a trial, it’s an opportunity to trust God. Real change is an inside job and strangely enough, both are useful in developing strong faith. It’s been suggested that when you aren’t experiencing trouble or temptation, pray *lead us not*—and when you *are* in trouble or temptation, pray *deliver us*. Agree? Share your thoughts.

3. Some temptations are meant to charm us and some are designed to cheat us. Either way, the devil’s end game is to chain us. As a growing Christian, the daily feed of temptations you used to struggle with may go right into the “spam” file now, without even a look. But the enemy has subtle ways of getting us to open his mail. Consider a few of the more common (as in familiar and frequent) temptations we might face.

Note what the Bible says and identify some ways this temptation might play out in everyday life. Briefly explain the effect it can have and practical ways to resist it.

Grumble / Complain – Philippians 2:14

Charm  Cheat  Both

Lack of Self-Control – Proverbs 25:28

Charm  Cheat  Both

Tongue Control – James 3:5, Ephesians 4:29

Charm  Cheat  Both

Jealousy and Selfish Ambition – James 3:14–16

Charm  Cheat  Both

Love of Money – Hebrews 13:5

Charm  Cheat  Both

Weary in Doing Good – Galatians 6:9–10

Charm  Cheat  Both

### **Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.  
God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability,  
but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape,  
that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

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### ***Think it over . . .***

When it comes to temptation, why is running always the best option?



### Day Three – Deliver Us from the Evil One

Read **John 17:14–17** and **1 Peter 5:6–10**.

When we pray *deliver us from the evil one*, we concede our own weakness against Satan’s strategies and plead for the greater power of God.

1. Wherever Christians proclaim and live out the gospel, the enemy will oppose them. But we don’t face trouble alone or in our own strength. We have rock-solid assurances from God’s Word. Who prays for us, and what can we *always* be certain of?

John 17:14–17

Hebrews 7:25

1 John 4:4

2. **Stay Alert, Stand Firm** – 1 Peter 5:6–10. Peter was, by nature, fearless and outspoken. Confidence made him a good leader, but famously got him into trouble on more than one occasion. When the devil looks at **confidence**, he focuses on how to use the first syllable.

- a. On the night He was betrayed, Jesus warned Peter that Satan wanted to sift him like wheat. Peter was confident he could handle it (Luke 22:31–34). Jesus prayed for Peter that night, and it was an older, wiser Peter who wrote this letter to the church. Do you detect aspects of Peter’s past experience coming through his counsel? In what way?

- b. For you personally, what stands out most about Peter’s counsel in 1 Peter 5:6–10?

- c. We need to be alert and aware of the evil one, but never forget who guards your soul. God’s eye is on you and He will work everything for your good.

2 Chronicles 16:9

Romans 8:28–29

- d. Do you find yourself digging more into God’s Word when the pressure is on? Share a favorite verse you go to when you need strength for the battle.

3. **Treasure in Clay Jars** – 2 Corinthians 4:5–9. We keep valuables safely locked in vaults. But God chooses to store His treasure, the Gospel, only in vulnerable human containers. We are fragile, breakable clay jars, but the light that is shining in our hearts cannot be extinguished.

The enemy knows this, and hates it. Paul describes his trouble and declares what the enemy failed to do.

Outward Opposition

- But Not -

Inner Effects

Hard pressed (restricted; confined)

Crushed (demoralized; stymied)

Perplexed (unsure of how to proceed)

Despair (without resource or hope)

Persecuted (persistently hassled)

Forsaken (dropped; deserted)

Struck Down (suddenly thrown; laid flat)

Destroyed (reduced to nothing)

- a. Paul did not preach himself—but he certainly preached *to* himself on a regular basis, and so must we. The devil can't extinguish the power of the Gospel but he can get us to hide our light. Corrie ten Boom, who survived the horrors of Ravensbrück, was fond of saying that God has plans, not problems, for our lives. The darker life got, the brighter and more beautiful the Gospel was for her to share. Do we believe it?

Maybe you can relate to Paul's experience in some way. Is the enemy trying to prevent your light from shining through some difficulty? If you believe God has Jeremiah 29:11 plans for you in spite of the problem, use the space below as a simple prayer.

\_\_\_\_\_ - But Not - \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Paul was not immune to trouble, but he trusted God to protect him from spiritual harm. How does Paul express confidence in God's protection?

Romans 8:31, 37

2 Timothy 4:18

**Memory Verse**

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.  
 God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability,  
 but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape,  
 that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

**Think it over . . .**

What might a God-chosen way of escape look like? What might a human response look like?

## Day Four – Your Kingdom, Your Power, Your Glory...Forever. Amen!

### Read 1 Chronicles 29:10–13.

When we pray *deliver us from the evil one*, we are looking forward to the day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. It will be the last prayer of all to be answered. God's kingdom will come. God's will on earth will be done just as it is in Heaven.

1. We finished our ***David: Profiles of an Authentic Life*** series with King David's prayer as he dedicated the future building of the Lord's house. David stood in the place where the temple would be, but was not yet. It is remarkable how similar David's prayer is to the Lord's Prayer. Do you see it? He was praying and praising God for the now and *someday*. And in this last phrase of the Lord's Prayer, *we* are praying and praising God for the now and *someday*.

It has been said that a believer's life is really marked by only two days on the calendar: this day, and THAT DAY. Give that some thought. What does it mean and how do you want that to be reflected in your life and prayers?

2. David's prayer book is the Psalms, and it is our prayer book too. In 150 separate psalms, we are taught to pray our needs and emotions in healthy, instructive ways. And mostly, we learn to pray our praise. The Lord's Prayer covers the same landscape in 66 words. We hope you will continue to use this pattern of prayer and let it inform the way you read, think, and pray through every other part of the Bible.

Finish your time today with a simple, one-sentence prayer for each:

Your Kingdom

Your Power

Your Glory

Forever!

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.  
God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability,  
but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape,  
that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

### And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 1 – Authentic Prayer

Jesus was a praying man. His disciples saw this about their teacher right away. He prayed every morning, often before the sun came up. They saw His habit of slipping away at the end of a long day for time alone with His Father. They heard Him pray and witnessed the power and peace that He carried into every aspect of His life and ministry. So, they asked Jesus to teach them to pray.

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover how (and how not) to pray.
- Consider what experiencing God's presence in daily life is intended to be.
- Examine how God speaks to us through His Word.
- Pray unhurried prayers that are rooted in knowing and living in God's Word.

#### Ice Breaker

What is the first prayer you were taught to say? Who taught you?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:5–13** and **Luke 18:9–14** to get the overall idea. Follow the dialogue closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two — The Power of a Simple Prayer

### Read Matthew 6:5–13

Jesus gave the disciples more than a pattern of words to pray. In six phrases, this prayer shows us what experiencing God’s presence in daily life is intended to be.

1. So, are you ready to discover how to experience the power of God’s presence in six short phrases? Let’s get going! But wait—this isn’t a race. Not a sprint, anyway. We run a Hebrews 12:1–2 race where endurance is tantamount to winning. The pace is set by keeping our eyes on Jesus. We don’t have to run fast, we just need to stay close and keep in step with Him.

The Lord’s Prayer is short and easy to recite, but actually praying it cannot be hurried. We are used to *fast*—with a side of *while we’re at it* thrown in, because that’s the pace of this world we live in. Truth be told, being quiet and focused on just one thing for more than five uninterrupted minutes is getting harder to do.

- a. Jesus regularly removed Himself from busyness to pray. If Jesus needed to get away from distractions to pray, what does that say for us? If you could have five uninterrupted minutes with Jesus three times a day, how would you spend them? (No really, think about it and write something down.)
  - b. From what you know about Jesus’ earthly ministry, describe what a typical day’s routine might have been for Him.
2. To understand what prayer is, let’s be clear on what it is not. Even people who claim no particular faith in God may adopt prayer as a healthy practice for mental and emotional well-being. But prayer is not tapping into some energy we stir up in ourselves.

Prayer is conversing with God, and good conversation involves listening as well as speaking. God speaks first through His Word and authentic prayer is rooted in knowing and responding to God’s Word. Put another way, “Without prayer that answers the God of the Bible, we will only be talking to ourselves.”<sup>1</sup> Briefly note what will *always* be true of God speaking to us.

Psalm 119:105

Proverbs 8:32–34

2 Timothy 3:16

Hebrews 4:16

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<sup>1</sup> Timothy Keller, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, pg. 62

3. Now think of God's promises that are attached to prayer. Here are a few to get you started.

Matthew 7:7

John 15:7

1 John 5:14–15

James 1:5

Jeremiah 29:12–13

Psalms 91:15

Isaiah 65:24

Psalms 34:17

Is there one promise in particular that resonates with you today? Briefly share why.

### **Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.  
Matthew 6:8 ESV

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### **Think it over . . .**

What are three qualities about your Heavenly Father that settle your cares and concerns?



## Day Three – Pray-Acting and Empty Words

### Read Matthew 6:5–8 and Luke 18:9–14

Jesus began by telling the disciples how *not* to pray.

1. Jesus warned the disciples not to treat prayer like a performance in order to impress others or feel good about themselves. The problem wasn't when or where they prayed, but why they prayed.
  - a. Devout Jews observed public prayers three times a day, at 9:00 AM, noon, and 3:00 PM. If they couldn't be at the synagogue, they would stop and pray wherever they were. The men in Jesus' illustration made sure everyone knew how devout they were. The point Jesus made was that, if we only pray when others can see and hear us, we're missing the point! Why is it essential for us to get alone with the Lord to pray?
  
  - b. When believers pray together, in what ways might we be inclined to impress others or compare how we pray with someone else's prayer?
  
2. Jesus had more to say about hypocritical prayers. When pray-acting is used to draw attention to oneself, it's annoying. But what was the self-centered Pharisee in Luke 18:9–14 doing?
  - a. If we were in church with these men, what might we see? One, a regular church-going, tithe-paying, morally upright man. The other, a guy who sees the mess he's made of his life, asking God for a clean heart and a fresh start. Both are in church and both have reasons to be thankful. But which prayer does God accept? Why?
  
  - b. Jesus said the humble man went home justified. The other man went home with a log in his eye (Matthew 7:5). We might think, *he wasn't even a Christian*. Do we know that? This much we know; we don't want to be that man. As C.S. Lewis put it, "When we Christians behave badly, or fail to behave well, we are making Christianity unbelievable to the world."

As representatives of the gospel, what lends credence to our message?

John 13:34–35

3. Jesus cautioned the disciples not to use vain repetitions like those who pray to false gods. When the apostle Paul visited Athens, the philosophers wanted to hear what new techniques he might have to offer (Acts 17:18). They never knew which god might listen, so prayer was a ritual of calling out each god by name and reciting elaborate incantations.
  - a. Why did Jesus downplay using the same words and phrases repeatedly when we pray?
  - b. What did Jesus *not* mean when He said, “Pray then like this...” (Matthew 6:9 ESV).
  
4. Jesus gave the disciples simple guidelines on how *not* to pray. These may be some of the same hurdles that we need to clear. There may be other hurdles that come to mind for you.
  - a. In what ways do we tend to make prayer more complicated?
  - b. In what ways can these guidelines help to keep your own prayers simple and focused?
  
5. Authentic prayer means: (Check all that apply.)
  - a. Pray with a listening heart (Ecclesiastes 5:2). \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Pray with a humble heart (2 Chronicles 7:14). \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Pray with an undivided heart (Jeremiah 29:13). \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Pray with a faithful heart (Mark 11:22–24). \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Pray with an obedient heart (1 John 3:22). \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Add your own thought to the list: \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.  
Matthew 6:8 ESV

### Think it over . . .

Is there a particular prayer habit you need to break? Why or why not?

## Day Four – Ask, Seek, Knock ... and Run?

### Read Matthew 7:7–11

Jesus talks about the generosity of persistent prayer.

When Jesus said, “Look! I stand at the door and knock,” (Revelation 3:20 NLT) He was speaking to a church that had gotten complacent in their relationship with Him. They were good at doing good things, but Jesus could see what they needed was a meal of fellowship...conversation... and communion with Him.

Some mornings we rush out the door, no time for coffee with Jesus. We grab a verse off our phone and wash it down with an inspirational quote. It isn't a meal, and it's not a sustainable spiritual diet—but some mornings it's the best we can manage. Surely better than nothing, but not ideal. Jesus understands *busy*. He didn't always have time for a meal and the crowds didn't go home after five. But He was in step with the Spirit and He knew how to keep *busy* from crowding out *best*. Surely, this is one reason the disciples asked Him to teach them to pray.

1. Having God's Word committed to memory is more than a good idea—it's a lifeline for us in the busy days. It will be “a strong refuge we can resort to continually...and my mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day...” (Psalm 71:3, 15).

Share a few favorite verses you've committed to memory that you can *resort to continually* throughout the day.

2. But in Matthew 7:7–11, Jesus turned the illustration and we are the ones who are at the door, asking, seeking, and knocking. As you read this familiar passage, what does it teach us about prayer?
  - a. In the Lord's pattern for prayer, Jesus said don't be repetitious in saying your prayers. Does that mean we shouldn't repeat our prayers? Explain the difference.

### Memory Verse

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.  
Matthew 6:8 ESV

### Think it over . . .

What is the most common name you use to address God when you pray? Why?

## Day Five – The Things We Need

1. Did you know that worship and prayer is an aroma that God finds irresistible? In the Bible, incense is a symbol of prayer. Every morning and every evening, Aaron the priest would burn aromatic incense on the altar so that there would be “perpetual incense before the Lord” (Exodus 30:8). God Himself gave the formula for this sweet-smelling savor. We even get a glimpse of earthly prayers from Heaven’s perspective. The prayers of God’s people, mixed with incense, rising before God’s throne (Revelation 8:3–4).

a. Instead of vain repetitions and much words, what did David want his prayers to be? Psalm 141:2

b. Prayer has a way of refining our heart. We learn to pray, not just for right things but also for the right reasons. What do you want your prayers to be?

**“After being with Jesus, half the questions that trouble you will be answered and the other half will not seem worth the asking.**

**You are His beloved and your heart can rest in that fact.”**

**C.H. Spurgeon  
“The Christ-Given Rest”**

### Memory Verse

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.  
Matthew 6:8 ESV

### Think it over . . .

Elisabeth Elliott said, “Never dig up in fear what you have already planted in faith.” Is there any replanting to be done today?

### After His Heart

“The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.” —2 Chronicles 16:9 NLT

**“God found in David a man who would stand in the gap, a man whose heart was fully committed to Him. Will He find that in you?”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

### Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 2 – Our Father

For John Mahony, a retired U.S. Army colonel, instinct kicked in first on the morning of September 11, 2001. The building jerked hard. “Earthquake,” said his California instinct. Mahony led his co-workers from the 19th floor, North Tower, to stairs filled with smoke and stunned evacuees. Fire sprinklers turned stairwells into waterfalls. Firefighters rushed up as frightened civilians stumbled down. Out of chaos, a familiar rhythm surfaced. His daily habit of saying the Lord’s Prayer settled his mind as the building writhed.

“At first I couldn’t get past the first part. Thy will be done. Thy will be done. But then it came and with it, peace. Jesus was right there with me, with all of us.” Despite the horror of that day, “I walked away with two priceless gifts—God’s peace with me every day, and the unshakeable power of a simple prayer.”

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover why there is power in this ancient prayer.
- Consider how the attributes of God instill confidence in our Father.
- Examine ways to develop and strengthen personal prayer habits.
- Pray honest prayers that expand understanding and hold steady with gratitude.

#### Ice Breaker

What is your favorite name for addressing God?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:9–13** and **Galatians 4:4–7** to get the overall idea. Follow the dialogue closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God’s ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Who Is Like Our God?

Jesus taught us to begin our prayer with worship, adoration, and praise. Remember how King David sat before the Lord and prayed, “Who am I, O Lord God...that You have brought me this far? For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears” (2 Samuel 7:18, 22 NKJV). Giving thought to who God is will give us every reason to echo David’s same prayer.

It’s a healthy and humbling experience to contemplate who God is—but it’s a lot like trying to drink Niagara Falls with a teacup! While God is too big for our minds to fully comprehend, He is near and wants to be known.

1. God’s attributes are essential qualities that are His alone. Meditating on these attributes strengthens our faith, and stirs awe and confidence in our Heavenly Father.

Give yourself time to read these verses. You don’t need to write them here, word for word, but make a note to help you remember what it says and how you might pray it back to God.

- a. **God is eternal.** As believers, we will live forever (immortality), but only God is eternal. We are created beings, but there has never been a time when God did not exist.

Exodus 3:14

Deuteronomy 33:27

Psalm 90:2

- b. **God is unchangeable.** God is immutable, which is to say He does not change. He has no need to grow or develop in character. He will not degenerate or cease to be perfect.

Psalm 102:25–27

Malachi 3:6a

James 1:17

- c. **God is all-knowing.** God is omniscient, which is to say He has complete and perfect knowledge. God is fully aware of all things at all times and has unlimited understanding.

Job 34:21

Psalm 139:1-6

Hebrews 4:13

- d. **God is ever-present.** God is omnipresent, which is to say He is present everywhere. At the same time, God is not limited by time and space. He exists outside of time and space.

Deuteronomy 4:39

Proverbs 15:3

Jeremiah 23:24

- e. **God is all-powerful.** God is omnipotent, which is to say that He has unlimited strength and the ability to accomplish all that He desires.

Job 42:2

Psalms 115:3

Jeremiah 32:27

2. When we settle our thoughts and worship God for *who He is* at the start of our prayer, what effect will it have on everything else that follows?

**Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

For us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him;  
and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist for Him.

1 Corinthians 8:6 NASB

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**Think it over**

What is the difference between “*from*” whom and “*by*” whom?



## Day Three – A Family Prayer

Read **Galatians 4:4–7** and **Romans 8:14–16**

The Lord's Prayer is a *family* prayer, but it's not for everyone. In one sense, we are all God's children because He created human beings. But the only way to become *family* with God is through faith in Jesus Christ.

1. We are so accustomed to this prayer that we can pass right over "Our Father" and not even notice the gospel in it!
  - a. Our **Father**. Prior to this, the name used most often was Yahweh (Lord) and it was so revered that, once written, it could not be erased. No devout Jew would presume to call God his own Father. How did Jesus make it possible for us to say Abba, Father?

John 1:12

Galatians 4:4–7

Romans 8:14–16

- b. **Our Father**. No Christian is an only child. We are family, not a loosely knit organization. The Lord taught us to pray *our* Father to remind us that prayer is not, (even when we're alone in the *secret place* Jesus spoke of), an all-about-me activity. Why is that good news?

Acts 1:14 and 2:42

Ephesians 6:18–19

Philippians 2:1–4

Colossians 1:9–12

2. What are some practical ways for us to pray with, and for, other Christians?

- a. Do you participate in praying with other believers on a regular basis? Would you like to? In what way?
  - b. What would you say is the greatest benefit you have experienced from praying with, and for, others?

**"God does not expect us to maintain the life of prayer in our own strength.**

**Jesus knows how weak we are. Therefore, when He teaches us to pray, He invites us into fellowship.**

**To pray is to practice the communion of the saints, which is the spiritual fellowship all Christians everywhere enjoy in Jesus Christ."**

Philip Graham Ryken

*When You Pray:*

*Making the Lord's Prayer Your Own*

## Memory Verse

For us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him;  
and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist for Him.  
1 Corinthians 8:6 NASB

## Think it over . . .

If I was more intentional about existing for God the Father each day, what would be different?

## Day Four – A Good, Good Father

### Ephesians 3:14–18 NLT

“When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, how deep His love is.”

1. The apostle Paul knew how to pray big prayers! Wouldn’t you like someone to pray this for you? Well in fact, he did! (By the way, we can pray this for others too.) This prayer is for those who have been adopted into the family of God.

Paul asks the Spirit to give us power to *understand* the love of God. The word *understand* means to jump on and wrestle to the ground. It reminds us of what nearly every child in every generation is compelled to do when they see their dad or grandpa laid out relaxing on the floor—jump ‘em! The idea here is, never outgrow the delight of tumbling around with how and why you were adopted into God’s family (aka *the joy of your salvation*). Here are the highlights; you fill in the details:

- a. Christ redeemed you (Galatians 3:13, Matthew 27:46). What did that cost Him?
- b. The Spirit of His Son confirmed it—welcome to the family (Galatians 4:6, Romans 8:16). Wow, what was that like for you?
- c. Your inheritance (Ephesians 1:1–14). Does that read like small print on a contract? No worries—just keep checking back, it’ll hit you.
- d. All-access pass (Ephesians 2:18). What’ll you do with that?
- e. New name, new identity (2 Corinthians 5:17). How’s that going?

- f. Bonus! Jesus has plans and He’s praying for you (John 17:1–26). Just read and say thanks!

### Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

For us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him;  
and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist for Him.

1 Corinthians 8:6 NASB

### And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 3 – Our Father in Heaven

“Who wants to go to Heaven?” the Sunday school teacher asked. All the boys and girls shot hands into the air. Except for Billy. He slid down in his chair and let out a sigh. “Billy,” the teacher gently asked, “wouldn’t you like to go to Heaven?” “Well...I *guess* so. But my mom said we could go to Disneyland after church. I really don’t want to miss that.”

Many people think like Billy. Heaven is up there, somewhere, someday. But we’re busy living, and Heaven? Truth be told, it feels like an interruption. It isn’t on our to-do list for today. Why not? When Heaven fills our thoughts, it’s more than a destination. It’s a motivation.

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover a glimpse of what Heaven will be like.
- Consider why being heavenly-minded is of great earthly good.
- Examine how Heaven is a destination *and* a motivation.
- Pray honest prayers that value eternal things more than earthly things.

#### Ice Breaker

What are some common misperceptions people have about Heaven?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:9–13**, **Colossians 3:1–2**, and **Revelation 22:1–5** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God’s ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Think Heaven

### Read Colossians 3:1–2

“Our Father in Heaven ...” When we fix our hearts and minds on things above, we begin to see how heavenly-mindedness shapes us for earthly good.

1. We can take comfort in praying, “our Father” because God is always accessible and actively engaged in our daily life. “He is not far from any one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:27–28 NIV). At the same time, God is so *transcendent* (beyond us) that even the heavens cannot contain Him (1 Kings 8:27).

How do these two truths about God factor in to the way that we think, live, and pray to our Father in Heaven? Briefly share your thoughts and then note some of David’s thoughts on the matter.

Psalm 8:3–5

Psalm 103:11–19

Psalm 139:1–12

- a. Do you believe that your Father in Heaven is listening, working, and looking after you? How does knowing this help you in the circumstances you face today?
2. How often do you think about Heaven? For most of us, except for seasons of grief or the realities of aging, Heaven doesn’t usually occupy our thoughts. But Colossians 3:1–2 instructs us to *keep seeking* (diligently, actively, single-mindedly) the things that are above and set your heart on Heaven. Share what that means for you in practical, everyday terms.
    - a. Does being heavenly-minded influence your daily choices and short-term goals? In what way?
    - b. Think of one or two specific things (e.g., a long-term goal, pursuit, relationship) that your heart and mind is set on. What helps you to keep it in proper perspective?

What is likely to hinder you?

3. **Seek** and **Set**. Paul used two words to state and re-state this command. “*Keep seeking*” describes a **mind-set**. “*Set*” describes a **heart-motive**. Are we splitting hairs, or is there a point? Well, Paul had just finished dismantling a cage that some rule-makers were trying to trap the Colossians in. “Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that comes from human thinking” (Colossians 2:8 NLT).

He reminded them to let their roots grow down and grow strong in the truth. Heaven was theirs because of faith in Jesus, not a bunch of powerless rules. They sound wise but they have absolutely no power to change you from the inside out. *You’re free to get on with your life in Christ.*

So . . . don’t live like you used to, don’t give in to all the dirty laundry behaviors you’ve left lying around in your heart (Colossians 3:5–9). Put them off—that’s the old you. Does it sound like Paul just gave them another set of impossibly difficult rules to follow? Not at all. He was giving them—and us—something much better to live for.

Consider again what it means to *keep* seeking and *set* our mind on Heaven. How does being heavenly-minded shape us for earthly good? Briefly share your thoughts.

- a. Let thoughts of Heaven fuel your mind to action.

**“Let me offer a fresh way to look at these all-too-human struggles. You don’t need to *turn away* from one thing as much as you need to *turn to* another.**

**What do you do when you want a child to let go of something? You put something better and more interesting in front of him—he will let go in a hurry to reach for that new something.**

**You and I need something more important to us than the earthly attractions that keep tripping us up. A new affection that causes that old thing to be seen for what it is, and I don’t want it anymore.**

**What is the new affection? Heaven.”**

Pastor Greg Laurie  
*Essentials*

- b. Give your heart to heavenly things, not to the passing things of earth.

### **Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.  
2 Corinthians 5:1 ESV

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### ***Think it over . . .***

What does the metaphor of a tent and a building teach you about your life?

### **Day Three – Breaking Camp**

#### **Read 2 Corinthians 5:1–7**

“Our Father in Heaven ...” The Bible promises that our resurrected bodies will be a new and improved, clearly unmistakable version of us.

1. As you read 2 Corinthians 5:1–7, give some thought to...
  - a. What is Paul most comforted by?
  - b. What is Paul most confident of?
  - c. What part, if any, do you find most difficult to wrap your head around?
  - d. Share one takeaway truth and why it ministers to you.



2. If you needed to explain to someone, who didn't know what having a resurrected body will be like, could you do it? (Without asking Pastor Greg or reading any other book but the Bible.) Note something from each of these verses—then choose one to explain in a little more detail.  
Please note: This is not a test and you will not be graded!

Job 19:25–27

1 Corinthians 15:42–44

Philippians 3:20–21

1 John 3:2

3. In one of his last recorded prayers, King David said, “We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace” (1 Chronicles 29:15 NLT).

And we all say ... amen. It's been wisely said that we cannot add years to our life, but we can add life to our years. Some take up that challenge and go after their bucket list. Others have been consistently building a legacy.

What do you want your spiritual legacy to be? What is on your *spiritual* bucket list?

### **Memory Verse**

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:1 ESV

### ***Think it over . . .***

What do you most look forward to about your resurrected body?

## Day Four – Someday ... Heaven!

### Read Revelation 22:1–5

“Our Father in Heaven...” Someday we will see Him face to face, but until then, we can see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living (Psalm 27:13).

1. Revelation 22:1–5 gives us an amazing glimpse of Heaven. Take your time reading these verses...there’s no hurry. We won’t cross-reference or look for deep meanings. Just read it as many times as you like and note what seems the same—and different—in heaven about:
  - a. Water
  - b. Street
  - c. Tree
  - d. Leaves
  - e. Fruit
  - f. People
  - g. Night
  - h. Light
  
2. When Moses said, “Please show me Your glory,” the Lord answered, “...you cannot see My face, for man shall not see Me and live” (Exodus 33:18, 20 ESV). So, it’s astounding to be told that in Heaven, we will see God’s face. Do we have to wait until Heaven to see God’s face and live?

In Western culture, when we speak to someone we look them in the face—not at their shoes, or beyond their shoulder to the wall behind them—to have meaningful communication.

When someone gives little or no eye contact during conversation it’s a sign of disinterest or distraction. From an early age, we teach our children to look at a person when they are being spoken to, as a sign of respect. In Middle Eastern cultures, strong eye contact *between men* is a sign of honesty and sincerity, a nonverbal way of saying *believe me when I say...*

God invites us to seek His face *today* and listen intently and believe (apply) what He says.

2 Chronicles 7:14–15

Psalm 27:4, 8, 13–14

Matthew 5:8

John 14:19–21

2 Corinthians 4:6

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:1 ESV

### And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 4 – Holy Is Your Name

Remember getting your first driver's license? It's a big day, but the car exam can be tense. One teenager almost had a perfect score on his test. "You did fine, only one mistake," the examiner said as he got out of the car. The boy sighed in relief, "I'm glad I don't have to drive that careful all the time!" That's how some Christians view holiness. On their best behavior at church but not that different from the world the rest of the time.

Jesus taught us to pray, "holy is Your name." Set apart, to honor His name and live a holy life.

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover the holiness of God's name.
- Consider why Jesus taught us to begin our prayers this way.
- Examine what God's names reveal about Him.
- Pray honest prayers that begin and end with worship.

#### Ice Breaker

In what ways is holiness viewed as an outdated concept for some people, even in the church?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:9–13**, **Isaiah 6:1–8**, and **John 17:1–6** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Holy, Holy, Holy

### Read Isaiah 6:1–8

To say “hallowed be Your name” does not mean we are praying for God’s name to be made holy. God’s name *is* holy. We are praying for God’s holy, refining presence to work in us to honor Him.

1. What does a name represent? In business, we think in terms of a brand. The name defines the product, the service, the identity. Having a good name is synonymous with recognition, influence, and success. In personal terms, we think of reputation—character and the qualities that make us essentially who we are.
2.
  - a. God’s name expresses and reflects His divine nature. He is who He is. When you think of God’s name and nature, what comes to mind? How would you describe God?
  
  - b. Why do you think Jesus taught us to begin our prayers by hallowing God’s name?
3. Have you ever prayed to feel the Lord’s presence? Like a song, we welcome God’s Spirit to come fill the atmosphere and let us experience the glory of His goodness. When it comes from a true heart, it’s music to God’s ears. It’s the prayer He will answer. Consider how the Lord did this for Isaiah.
  - a. What did Isaiah see and hear and feel? Is this different from what we usually have in mind when we picture coming into God’s presence? In what way?
  
  - b. What did Isaiah realize and confess about himself? Why will this always be a consistent part of truly experiencing God’s presence? Do you welcome it? Why or why not?
  
  - c. “I am undone” is a response God will always hear and accept. “It’s no big deal” is *never* acceptable. Isaiah’s vision changed his understanding of God’s holy response to sin and it can change ours. In what way?

Isaiah 8:13

Isaiah 59:1–2

Isaiah 57:15–16

4. When God wants to use a man or woman, He lets them feel deeply their need for Him, and then He will light a fire in them. God chose Isaiah to call his generation back to holiness. But first, Isaiah needed a personal experience of God’s mercy and forgiveness that would give him purpose and stir him to say, “Here am I, send me.”

- a. “In the year that King Uzziah died.” This was an unsettling event for the nation, and Isaiah in particular. His earthly king turned out to be a hero with feet of clay. Now he was gone. Judah was in a deep moral slide, too corrupt to change and too comfortable to care. How disheartening. Isaiah had nothing but woe and judgment to proclaim to his people. Until he saw the Lord. How did Isaiah’s encounter with the Lord change what mattered to him?

Uzziah was king of Judah for 52 years. He did right in the Lord’s sight and God blessed him. Everything he touched prospered. The nation was strong and stable during his reign. But pride was his undoing (2 Chronicles 26:16).

Uzziah felt entitled to take the priest’s place, in direct violation of God’s holiness. Instead of repenting when he was confronted, he got angry and defiant. Uzziah took the censer and went to the altar, where he was immediately struck with leprosy. Sadly, Uzziah spent his last years in isolation, a leper until the day he died.

Can you identify with Isaiah? In what way?

- b. King Uzziah’s attempt to barge into God’s presence on his own terms ended badly. What had he failed to understand about God? What do we learn from him?

5. Like live coals from the altar, it will hurt at some level to experience holiness. God is a refining fire, intent on making us holy (Malachi 3:2–3). Our holy life began with salvation—not by any doing of ours, but by what Jesus our Savior did for us (Titus 3:4–7). From that moment until our last breath, we are being sanctified, set apart for God’s purposes and glory.

Job 23:10

1 Peter 1:6–7

When, and in what way, are you most aware of God’s refining fire?

### Memory Verse

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods?  
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?  
Exodus 15:11 ESV

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**Think it over . . .** What will you praise God for today?

## Day Three – Holiness Is Christ in Me

### Read John 17:3–5, 17–19

What is the most effective way to honor God’s name as holy? By being holy. This John 17 prayer (the real Lord’s prayer) is what Jesus prayed for us. In this session, we look at a few key verses, but read the entire prayer for yourself. It is time well spent.

Everything that Jesus came to do is compressed into a few words (John 17:3–5). In those few simple verses, we see all eternity in the planning, accomplished in thirty-three years, so that we can live forever. Think about it.

- a. What is eternal life?
  - b. Why did Jesus come?
  - c. Where is He now?
2. Jesus prayed for us to be holy (John 17:17–19). Holiness is not an optional, deluxe version of salvation. If Jesus died to make us holy, then holy we must be. Consider what that means.
- a. Can we identify holiness when we see it? What does it look like to you?
  - b. Some associate holiness with being austere and rigid. Does that describe Jesus? What was it about Jesus that attracted people to Him?
3. Holiness is the most important thing about us because it gives weight to our words and life with others. It’s our voice, even when we don’t speak, to draw people to want to know God. Briefly note what holiness “looks like” in normal, everyday life.

Matthew 5:14–16

Romans 12:1–2

1 Peter 3:15–16

**“What do your children,  
your family, your friends,  
need most from you?  
Your personal holiness.**

**Whatever else you think  
is more important than  
holiness . . . isn’t.”**

Timothy Keller

Think of someone who was instrumental in bringing you to Jesus. Share how their life and witness influenced you.



4. “Hallowed be Your name” means: (Check all that apply.)
- a. It’s simply a polite and respectful way to start your prayer. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Worship and adoration of God for who He is and what He does. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. An expression of devotion, “You are first in my heart and in my life.” \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. An expressed pledge to represent God in our actions and attitudes. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. A petition that more people would come to know God and honor His name. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Add your own thought. \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?  
Exodus 15:11 ESV

### *Think it over . . .*

How have you seen God at work in the lives of your family and friends? What will you pray for them today?

### Day Four – What’s in a Name?

#### Psalm 9:10

Those who know Your name will put their trust in You.

God’s name is glorified and our faith is made strong when we pray, knowing God’s character and His ways. Some of God’s names are listed for you here, with space between for you to record your own thoughts and response.

1. **Yahweh** (Jehovah) – I AM (Genesis 2:4, Exodus 3:14). With this name, God reveals that He is self-existent. No beginning, no end. All of God’s names stem from His works except this one. This is the name that fully expresses God’s being.
2. **Elohim** – Creator (Genesis 1:1). This is the name that reveals God to us at the beginning of time. Not His beginning, for Elohim has always existed and time is part of His creation. God wasn’t just hovering out in space—He created space too. God transcends time, space, and matter. Elohim is a *plural* name, indicating the triune nature of God.

3. **El-Shaddai** – God Almighty (Genesis 17:1). The Lord used this name when He made the covenant with Abraham. It expresses God’s unlimited power and unfailing faithfulness. Nothing is too hard for God and He always keeps His promises.
4. **Adonai** – My Lord (Genesis 15:2, 2 Samuel 7:18). This name recognizes God’s rule and divine ownership. He is Lord of all and takes loving responsibility for the care and wellbeing of His servants and His creation.
5. **Jehovah-Jireh** – The Lord our Provider (Genesis 22:14). We’re familiar with Abraham’s test of obedience and how the Lord blessed him for holding nothing back. God saw and God provided.
6. **Jehovah-Tsaba** – The Lord our Warrior (1 Samuel 17:45). This is the name that David invoked when he fought Goliath. Perspective is everything. David saw Goliath’s size but his focus was on the King of the universe, mighty in power. David habitually kept a sense of awe for God and His glory, and that cut his enemy down to size.
7. **Jehovah-Rapha** – The Lord our Healer (Exodus 15:25–26). This name refers to God’s healing of infirmities of body, mind, and spirit. The Israelite’s situation at Marah points to an important truth that God not only heals but also has a purpose for our pain and problems.

### **Memory Verse**

Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?  
Exodus 15:11 ESV

### ***Think it over . . .***

Which of God’s names puts your current circumstances into perspective? What will you trust Him to do with you, for you, through you?

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?  
Exodus 15:11 ESV

### And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 5 – Your Kingdom Come

On June 6, 1944, the Allied Forces invaded German troops on the coast of Normandy, France. The D-Day invasion signaled the beginning of the end of World War II. There were more battles to be fought, but Hitler's defeat was sealed. Victory would come and Europe would be liberated.

When Jesus went to the cross, it was D-Day for the kingdom of God. Sin and death were defeated and the devil now fights a losing battle. We live in the "now" of Christ's reign in our lives and look forward to the "not yet," when Jesus returns to establish His kingdom on earth. In the meantime, there are battles to fight and captives to be set free.

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover how to live and look forward to the Lord's return.
- Consider the ways we can be salt and light in today's culture.
- Examine who and what we live for.
- Pray honest prayers to spread good news and hold steady with hope.

#### Ice Breaker

Can you think of a recent answer to prayer that took you completely by surprise?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 5:1–12** and **Luke 8:4–15** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Your Kingdom Come, My Kingdom Go

### Read Matthew 5:1–12.

When we pray, “Your kingdom come,” we are praying for God to reign in us, here and now, as we live and look forward to the day when Jesus returns.

1. In Luke’s account of the Beatitudes, Jesus contrasts the blessings of living for God’s kingdom with the sorrows of living only for this world (see Luke 6:24–26). It’s as though Jesus is asking, what do you most want out of life? Woe—*alas, how sad for you*—if this is what you make your life about. Are these the same things that people live for today? In what way?

2. What does following Jesus mean for every individual, whatever our ordinary life and daily routine may be?

Matthew 16:24–25

John 14:21

John 15:16

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

**You can’t pray, “Your kingdom come”  
until you are prepared to pray,  
“My kingdom go.”**

**Are you willing to do that?  
Until we give God permission to  
supplant or even dismantle our  
personal kingdom—  
our own wants, desires,  
priorities, plans, and goals—  
we can’t really pray  
“Your kingdom come”  
with any integrity.**

Pastor Greg Laurie  
*Essentials*

3. The “be” attitudes are not a list of commands—they are a description of Christ-follower traits, a standard of conduct. When we live these out, we are a visible demonstration of an otherwise invisible (to unbelievers) grace that we live in *and oftentimes take for granted*.

As you go through this list, keep in mind these aren’t like spiritual gifts, where the Spirit chooses to give each one of us some but not others. These are the standard for every citizen in God’s kingdom. But you *will* see the *fruit* of the Spirit at work.

Read each “be” attitude and answer these questions: How is this different from the world’s standard practice? How does it make *me* different? What fruits of the Spirit are evident? (See Galatians 5:22–23.)

- a. Poor in spirit – Matthew 5:3. We are utterly destitute of any claim to goodness within ourselves. As the old hymn goes, “Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to the cross I cling.”
- b. Those who mourn – Matthew 5:4. Jesus used the strongest word for *mourn* here. Grief that strips and stuns to the core of your soul. We mourn for all kinds of reasons: loss, regrets, circumstances, sins. God is our unfailing source of consolation (Psalm 94:19).

- c. Meek – Matthew 5:5. A forbearing spirit; strength under control. The proper balance between anger and indifference. Strong enough to suffer wrong without bitterness or desire for revenge.
- d. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness – Matthew 5:6. Jesus chose words that mean *famished* and *insatiable thirst* for the desire to be in a right relationship with God.
- e. Merciful – Matthew 5:7. Mercy has been rightly described as God’s heart in action. He is moved with compassion toward us. Remember the term *pay it forward*? God’s mercy and kindness to us put us in a position to be merciful and kind to others.
- f. Pure in heart – Matthew 5:8. An unpolluted, undivided heart. Pure in the sense of a clean, forgiven heart. Pure in the sense of a wholly devoted heart—no competing idols.
- g. Peacemakers – Matthew 5:9. One who actively makes peace *with* others (Romans 12:18) and actively brings peace *to* others by sharing the gospel (2 Corinthians 5:18–20).
- h. Persecuted for righteousness’ sake – Matthew 5:10–12. This may be the blessing no one wants to claim, but Jesus said that it’s part of being identified with Him (2 Timothy 3:12).

Jesus pronounced us *blessed* or happy. We usually think of happiness as being comfortable or trouble-free. This “happy” is more like *serene*. It’s an unshakeable sense of well-being that is not dependent on outward circumstances.

**Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”  
Mark 1:15 NKJV

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**Think it over . . .**

What aspect of your personal “kingdom” is difficult for you to let go?

## Day Three – Salt, Light, and Soil

### Read Matthew 5:13–16 and Luke 8:4–15.

When we pray, “Your kingdom come,” we are praying for God’s people to be about God’s business of proclaiming the gospel.

1. What do salt and light have in common? In a word, *influence*. After describing what makes a Christian distinct from the world, Jesus used the metaphor of salt and light to illustrate the influence we are meant to have in our culture.

If we want to be salt and light, it helps to be clear what we are aiming for. Do we want the *insta*-influence or the long-obedience-in-the-same-direction version? It’s easier than ever before to access spiritual wisdom from godly influencers. And it’s never been more challenging to cultivate it for ourselves. If we want others to know that we follow Jesus on more than our social media, what will that require? Share your thoughts. (Post them too, if you’d like.)

2. Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone” (Mark 16:15 NLT). The only way people come into God’s kingdom is by hearing *and responding* to the gospel. Our part is to spread the seed as frequently and far as we can, and pray. Only God can change a heart and life. But we can always improve on our delivery. The Parable of the Sower, which is really more about the soil, can help.\* Give some thought and response to the following observations.
  - a. Jesus likens the Word of God to a seed, not a boulder. Consider the difference. For example, a seed penetrates soil—vs—a boulder pulverizes soil. A seed germinates and grows—vs—a boulder smothers any chance of growth beneath where it lands.
  - b. The sower scattered the seed freely as he walked through the field. There’s no indication he was concerned about wasting seed or limiting it to areas he deemed to be good soil.
  - c. Think of your own salvation experience. Did you hear and respond to the gospel right away? Which of the soils (any or all) could you identify with at some point before you were saved? Perhaps even after you were saved? In what way?

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\* You can compare this with the parallel accounts in Matthew 13 and Mark 4 if you like.





## Day Four – Come Lord Jesus

### 1 Peter 4:7

“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.”

“It’s time.” Two simple words with the power to summon up a range of emotions. A sentimental whisper from a father as he walks his daughter down the aisle. For one awaiting test results, it’s the pulse-quickenning announcement that the doctor will see you now. Uttered by an expectant mom, those words set joy into motion. Imagine what it will be like when the one saying, “It’s time,” is Jesus, our returning Lord and King!

1. “Come, Lord Jesus” is the last prayer in the entire Bible (Revelation 22:20). This is what we are asking when we pray, “Your kingdom come.” Someday the Lord will answer that prayer! How should we live as we look forward to the Lord’s return? Read Titus 2:11–15 and answer in your own words.
  
2. What are some specific ways we can be serious and watchful in our prayers for . . .
  - a. The church and our church leaders.
  
  - b. Our nation and our elected officials.
  
  - c. Believers proclaiming the gospel worldwide.
  
3. “Your kingdom come” means: (Check all that apply.)
  - a. Solving social problems and eliminating evil. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Expressing unconditional obedience to God’s reign in my heart and life. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. A prayer for the gospel to be preached in all the world. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Anticipation for the Lord’s return. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Add your own thought. \_\_\_\_\_

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”  
Mark 1:15 NKJV

### And When You Pray . . .

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 6 – Your Will Be Done

Jim Elliot was not well known during his lifetime. He grew up in Portland, Oregon, the son of a Plymouth Brethren evangelist. At Wheaton College, he courted and married a missionary's daughter named Elisabeth. His passion to preach the gospel and see people saved is what led him to Ecuador. *"Lord, fill preachers and preaching with Thy power,"* he wrote in his journal. God answered Jim Elliot's prayer. Martyred by a handful of people he hoped to reach in life, he touched millions with the gospel, including his martyrs, in death. Jim Elliot didn't seek fame, he simply chose to serve the Lord with the grain of wheat he'd been given (John 12:24).

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover the secret of a satisfied life.
- Consider how praying God's will affects your outlook.
- Examine the connection between prayer and praise.
- Pray honest prayers that lead to surrender and transformation.

#### Ice Breaker

By nature, are you are more of a leader? Or a follower? How so?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Proverbs 3:5–6**, **Romans 12:1–2**, and **1 Thessalonians 5:16–18** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Trust and Obey

Read Proverbs 3:5–6 and Psalm 37:1–11.

1. Are we honestly prepared to pray “*Your will be done*” without tacking on a conditional clause here or there? God knows what is best for us and we are usually inclined to agree. Except, of course, when we have a different idea.

- a. **trust** (verb) 1. to believe in the honesty and integrity of; 2. to rely or depend on; 3. to follow without fear of the outcome.

Have you ever trusted God and regretted it? Why or why not?

Have you ever failed to trust God and regretted it? Why or why not?

- b. **acknowledge** (verb) 1. to recognize the authority or claims of; 2. to confess to be true; 3. to express thanks for.

In keeping with each of the three definitions, what will you acknowledge about God’s care and concern for you today?

2. **“I trust God, but sometimes I just can’t figure Him out.”** If we haven’t actually said it, we’ve thought it! David felt the same way when he prayed, “How long, Lord?” (Psalm 13:2). *How long must I wrestle my own thoughts and walk around with a knot in my stomach? What am I missing here, God?* David learned to pray his troubles and leave them with God.

David had a habit of preaching to himself, and we should too. It’s easy to get caught in the crossfire of methods the world offers to get what you want, and lose sight of what God knows is best. Give some thought to David’s advice in Psalm 37:1–11. Put it in practical terms that you can apply to your life.

- a. Trust and do good – verse 3:
- b. Dwell and feed – verse 3:
- c. Delight and He will give – verse 4:
- d. Commit and He will do – verse 5:

- e. Rest and wait patiently – verse 7:
  - f. Do not fret – verse 8:
  - g. Cease from anger, forsake wrath – verse 8:
  - h. Wicked living won't prevail – verse 10. We use *wicked* to describe very bad people, but the biblical definition is *guilty*. It describes anyone who lives as though God does not matter.
  - i. Humble strength succeeds in the long run – verse 11:
3. Has praying for God's will to be done ever changed your outlook on circumstances or your attitude toward another person? In what way?
4. God has a unique plan for each of us but certain things are God's will for *all* of us. What can you confidently know is part of God's will for you as you pray and cooperate with His leading?

Romans 5:3–5

Colossians 4:2, 5–6

James 1:5

1 John 5:14–15

### **Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV

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### **Think it over . . .**

When and what was the last thing you specifically thanked God for?

## Day Three – I Surrender All

### Read Romans 12:1–2.

Christians are different—*peculiar*, as an old Bible translation puts it. Our neighbors might agree. There are things about the way we live that don't make sense except in terms of eternity.

1. When we pray, “Your will be done” we are aligning our will with God’s. In this phrase, we anticipate the day when earth’s business will be carried out the same way it is right this moment in Heaven—obedience to God every time, all the time. In this phrase, we also pray *and let it begin, here and now, with me.*

a. **“It’s a good thing God doesn’t give me everything I ask for.”** Most of us will gratefully admit we don’t always know what’s best for us. We pray with limited knowledge and at times in our own self-interest. But our Father in Heaven knows best. When has a “no” or “not yet” answer to prayer stretched your faith? In what way?

b. **“It’s a good thing to give God everything that *He* asks for.”** This goes right to the heart of what Romans 12:1–2 is about. To live for God, we surrender our entire self to Him—all that we are and all that we have to offer.

*By the mercies of God* – If we skim over this phrase without letting it sink in, we are likely to be overwhelmed. Why is God’s mercy the key element of being able to align our will with God’s?

**“The real secret  
of an unsatisfied life  
lies too often  
in an  
unsurrendered will.”**

Hudson Taylor

*Don’t be conformed...be transformed* – Surrender can be passive, or it can be active. Passive surrender lets the world squeeze us into its mold. Active surrender chooses to obey God’s Word and cooperate with God’s Spirit to change the way we think and live our lives. Which do you choose?

Refusing to conform to the world’s script for living comes with assurances that God will support your decision. What can you be certain of?

John 14:16–17

2 Corinthians 4:7–10

2 Corinthians 4:17–18

Hebrews 13:20–21



2. God has a plan and always finishes what He begins (Philippians 1:6). But He does not force us to submit our will to Him. Where is the motivation to pray, “I surrender all” to be found? Consider what happened to the only man who ever totally surrendered to God’s will.

- a. What was Jesus’ attitude toward doing the Father’s will?

John 4:34

John 6:38

John 8:29

Philippians 2:5–8

- b. We may say that a child who resists their parent has a strong will. The question is, what kind? Jesus’ prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane took the greatest strength of will there could ever be. From what you read in the text, describe the emotional anguish Jesus endured and His resolve in praying, “*Your will be done.*” What is most striking to you?

Matthew 26:36–46

Hebrews 5:7–9

3. Every one of us is born a rebel. We deserve to have our prayers go unanswered. But Jesus illustrated why we can be confident that God will hear our prayers (Luke 11:11–13). What father, if his son asks for a fish, would give him a snake instead? If he asked for an egg, would his father give him a scorpion? If an earthly father wants nothing but the best for his child, how much more does our Father in Heaven?

Put another way, “We know God will answer us when we call because one terrible day He did *not* answer Jesus when *He* called” (Matthew 27:46).<sup>1</sup>

When we struggle with surrendering our will on any point, a fresh reminder of the gospel can give us the necessary change of heart. Is there something in your life that you want, but don’t have? Something you have, but don’t want? God has a purpose for allowing—or *not* allowing it at this time.

When you take inventory of what is most precious to you, what does surrendering it back to the Lord look like?

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<sup>1</sup> Timothy Keller, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, pg. 237

## Memory Verse

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV

### *Think it over . . .*

Are you more likely to express your thanks with words or with actions?

## Day Four – The Connection Between Prayer and Praise

### Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18.

We have said it before and it bears repeating. Troubles, prayed through honestly and with praise, will change your outlook.

In context, these verses are included in a list of instructions given to the church to be applied individually and during public worship. The last phrase\* applies to all three commands.

Prayer and praise is not just to make us feel better—though it does! Prayer and praise is giving God the glory, honor, and worship that is due to Him for who He is. Give some thought to what that looks like. Give a personal example. Then explain why, and in what way, we practice this together in worship as the body of Christ.

1. **Rejoice always.** Circumstances and emotions change but joy remains.
2. **Pray without ceasing.** Mindful of God’s continuous presence and our ongoing dependence.
3. **In everything give thanks;** *for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.\**

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV

### And When You Pray . . .

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 7 – Our Daily Bread

The 2017 World Happiness Report is out and it's official—Norway is the happiest country on earth, in spite of declining income and freezing weather. Ratings are based on a Gallup poll that uses six variables to measure happiness: income, healthy life expectancy, someone to count on in times of trouble, generosity, freedom, and trust (a perceived absence of corruption in business and government). People were asked to rate their life from “worst possible” to “best possible” on a scale of 0 to 10. Norway credits “high levels of trust and generosity” for its top rank. In spite of improved income and life expectancy, the U.S. dropped to No. 14 down from last year. Why so sad? The report concludes that Americans are looking for happiness “in all the wrong places.”

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover true happiness in trusting God for our daily needs.
- Consider how prayer and God's Word align our hearts back to God's desires.
- Examine why a “do nothing” attitude can actually be a good thing.
- Pray honest prayers that lead to dependence and authentic contentment in life.

#### Ice Breaker

What has been in your “top five” list of prayer requests lately?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:11, Philippians 4:11–13, 19** and **Luke 11:5–13** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Are We Content to Depend on Him?

Read **Matthew 6:11** and **Philippians 4:11–13, 19**.

As Jesus taught us to pray for *our daily bread*, He gives us the right perspective. We are reminding ourselves to depend on God for our material needs and be content with all that He provides.

1. Asking for *daily bread* would remind the people of their ancestors who lived on the manna that God provided every morning. They were to gather only what they needed for the day and use all they collected. When they tried to save it, the manna turned rancid (Exodus 16).

**“We’re tired of the same old nourishing, miraculous bread.”**

Consider how the people responded to God’s provision. At first, they were fascinated with it and tried to hoard it. Then they took it for granted. Soon they were dissatisfied with it and began to complain. Before long, they scorned what God gave them and craved food from Egypt.

Put yourself in Israel’s shoes (which, by the way, did not wear out during their forty-year timeout for poor choices). God met their needs but they struggled with wanting something more, or other. What would you do in a similar position? What can we learn from Israel?

2. When it comes to material things, our *wants* and *needs* often change. We can, and should, make the most of what we’ve been entrusted with. The satisfaction that comes from stuff has a pretty short shelf life—but there’s no expiration date on our relationship with God, and that’s where contentment is stored.
  - a. Writing to the Philippians (from prison) Paul said, “I have *learned* to be content ...” It did not come naturally and it was more than a feeling that comes and goes. From past experience, what could Paul confidently say about God?
  - b. Maybe you relate to Paul’s experience in some way. Paul didn’t say he was content *with* his circumstances. Life was abruptly altered by events beyond his control and the future was unclear. Do you find yourself pressed into God, taking it one day at a time? Briefly share how God is sustaining and teaching you.

### **“What is it?”**

Manna was like coriander seed, similar in size to a small peppercorn. It had to be gathered before the day got warm or it dissolved. A day’s portion was about two quarts, per person. It was ground into flour and baked, or it was boiled. It tasted like a honey wafer. It was Israel’s staple food for 40 years until the next generation entered the Promised Land. It ceased as suddenly as it first came.

3. We should never hesitate to ask God for our material wants and needs. It's not about seeking riches or fearing you'll be poor. It's about seeking God to give us what *He* knows we need in order to live and serve Him well.

God balances our expectations and aligns our hearts back to His desires when we pour all our requests through the purifying filter of His Word. If we are content to depend on *Him* what can we be certain of?

**“God will only give you what you would have asked for if you knew everything He knows.”**

Timothy Keller

Proverbs 30:8–9

Matthew 6:32–34

Philippians 2:13–14

1 Timothy 6:6–8

Hebrews 13:5–6

### **Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

“My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 4:19 NKJV

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### **Think it over . . .**

Choose which word in this verse to put the emphasis on as you pray it today.

## Day Three – Asking God for Our Needs

### Read Luke 11:5–13.

Praying for our needs reminds us that we are in generous and capable hands. Do we believe it? God is ready, willing and able to give us this day, and every day, all that we need.

1. If God already knows what we need, why pray? Whatever your request may be, what can you always rely on Him to do for you?

Isaiah 30:18

Jeremiah 33:2–3

John 16:24

Hebrews 4:15–16

Ephesians 3:20–21

2. **God is not your grumpy neighbor** – Luke 11:5–8. Jesus isn't suggesting that God is like a grumpy neighbor who must be badgered into answering prayer. By *contrast*, our Heavenly Father is pleased and ready to answer when we persist in prayer.
  - a. What are some reasons, besides a clear answer from God, that we might give up and quit praying about something?
  - b. Give an example of when you have prayed persistently and God answered. Has it made a difference in the way you approach prayer? In what way?
3. **How much more?** – Luke 11:9–13. Jesus brought His point home by appealing to every father in the crowd. Who would ever think of putting their own child in harm's way or neglect their basic needs? Just as a father takes good care of his kids, God loves to provide all our needs.
  - a. Do you find it easy to trust God to provide for your needs? Why or why not?
  - b. In what ways are you most mindful of your daily dependence on God? In what ways do you tend to be self-reliant?



4. By the way, God also knows what we *don't* need, so let's cross these things off our list. Note what the following scriptures say and how it personally applies to you in this season of life.

No need to worry – Matthew 6:25

No need to fear – Isaiah 41:10

No need to be anxious – Philippians 4:6–7

No need to strive – Matthew 6:19–21

**Memory Verse**

“My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 4:19 NKJV

***Think it over . . .***

Now choose a different word in this verse to put the emphasis on as you pray today.

## Day Four – Obeying God for Others’ Needs

### 1 John 3:16–18 (ESV)

“By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

By asking God to give *us* our bread, we identify with the needs of others and especially the poor. How can we pray *give us* and not be *givers* ourselves?

1. Jesus told the story of a man who was richly blessed but had a severe case of “I” trouble (Luke 12:17–21). There was nothing improper with the way he gained wealth or what he possessed. But he failed to see beyond doing what made him happy, with no thought for God or others.

- a. Whether we have much or little, we do well to remember that life does not consist in the abundance of what we possess. God promises to bless us when we give with the right attitude. What should be our motive in giving?

Proverbs 3:9–10

2 Corinthians 9:6–8

- b. God calls us to also be generous with our time, energy, and service. What might that look like?

Matthew 25:34–40

James 2:15–17

2. With all this talk of what we can do for others, it really takes a “do nothing” attitude to please the Lord. According to Philippians 2:3–4, what is it?

3. “Give us our daily bread” means: (Check all that apply.)

- a. Hot biscuits and butter every day. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Acknowledges our Heavenly Father is generous and willing to bless us. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Expresses our dependence upon God for every part of life. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Expresses our commitment to be generous toward others. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Add your own thought. \_\_\_\_\_

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

“My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 4:19 NKJV

### And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 8 – Forgive Us Our Debts

Debt is a way of life for most people. As American as apple pie—and that pie is getting expensive. In 2016, the average household with credit card debt carried a monthly balance of \$16,748. Add a mortgage, a car loan, and a student loan and that balance jumps to more than \$270,000. Yikes. Fortunately, the experts have some advice . . . you may want to write this down . . . ready? Here it is. Try to increase income and cut expenses. Not the answer you wanted? Please keep reading.

Taking on debt is a short-term fix with costly, long-term results. This is not new, but it is still true. Especially when the debt we're talking about is sin.

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover why forgiven people must be forgiving people.
- Consider the debt you could never repay and no longer owe.
- Examine your capacity for extending forgiveness.
- Pray honest prayers that lead to forgiveness and mercy as a way of life.

#### Ice Breaker

If you could sum up forgiveness in three short rules, what would they be?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:12, 14–15** and **1 John 1:8–9** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Forgive Us Our Debts

### Read Matthew 6:12, 14–15 and Luke 15:11–32.

When we pray *forgive us our debts*, we are following the Lord’s instruction to keep short accounts with sin. At the end of the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus shows how our willingness to forgive others will affect our capacity to experience forgiveness and remain in unbroken fellowship with God.

1. Halfway through this prayer, we come to what may be the hardest part. Here it is. Forgive. Asking for forgiveness and extending it to others don’t come naturally for us, but that is what Jesus commands us to do. And He is the consummate authority on forgiveness.
  - a. Is forgiveness essential to you in everyday life? Why or why not?
  - b. Asking forgiveness can sometimes be more difficult than extending it. In what way?

If this aspect of the Lord’s Prayer isn’t a consistent part of our prayers, we may need to ask God to help us see our sins as He does. (Now that’s a prayer He will answer.)

2. **A Tale of Two Sons** – Luke 15:11–32. Jesus told the story of a young man who squandered his inheritance, living the high life until the money (and his friends) ran out. Desperate, he begged a local farmer for a job and ended up feeding hogs. Bankrupt and broken, he came to his senses and wanted to go home.
  - a. The son rehearses in his own mind what to say to his father. From what you can tell, describe how the young man sees himself now. What does he muster up enough hope to ask for, and how does his father respond?
  - b. The story doesn’t stop at the son’s homecoming. Jesus went on to talk about the older son who would not forgive his brother and refused to join the feast. As a result, the older son cut himself off from fellowship with his brother *and also* with his father. Explain how this illustrates and drives home the point of Jesus’ warning in Matthew 6:14–15.\*

**Believers who refuse  
to confess their sins  
or to forgive  
the sins of others  
only rob themselves of  
the blessings  
God has  
prepared for them.**

Warren Wiersbe

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\*Jesus issues this warning to *believers* who refuse to forgive; the Lord’s Prayer is a *family* prayer. Forgiveness that leads to salvation cannot be earned; but refusing to forgive breaks fellowship with God and is part of our loving Father’s discipline. Forgiving is not optional for a believer.

3. Does thinking about your sinfulness in terms of debt change or deepen your understanding of God's forgiveness? In what way?

### **Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 ESV

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### ***Think it over . . .***

Is this a promise you regularly claim and exercise? Why or why not?

### **Day Three – As We Forgive Our Debtors**

#### **Read Matthew 18:21–35.**

The Bible describes sin in a variety of ways. It defiles us, ensnares us; it crouches at the door. Sin blinds us, deceives us; it binds like chains. It's a heavy burden, cords of wickedness. Sin causes us to miss the mark, to stumble in the dark; it leads us astray. And in this prayer, Jesus calls our sin a debt we can't possibly repay.

1. **A Tale of Two Debtors** – Matthew 18:21–35. One day, Peter asked Jesus how often we should forgive a brother who sins against us. This parable illustrates how forgiven people must be forgiving people.
  - a. The first man owed a billion-dollar debt and pleaded for time to repay it. The master saw his impossible situation and was moved with compassion. Instead of simply giving the debtor more time, how did the master respond to this man's plea for patience?
  - b. The first debtor left there with a clean slate and a new lease on life. But what did he do? He found a fellow servant who owed him a few hundred dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded payment. He refused his friend's plea for patience and chose retribution instead. Explain how this also illustrates and drives home the point of Jesus' warning in Matthew 6:14–15.

2. As it has often been said, when you forgive, you set a prisoner free—yourself. Please listen carefully. Forgiveness is not always a one-stop, get-it-right-the-first-time effort. But God will honor every endeavor to make forgiveness and mercy-giving a way of life for you. You have His Word on it. Take note of the instructions and promises God gives us in these verses.

Psalm 66:18

Mark 11:25

Matthew 5:23–24

3. Looking back, how have you grown closer to God in a season of needing to receive or extend forgiveness? Briefly share one or two insights you gained about God.
4. Which of the following statements are accurate? (Check all that apply.)
- a. Forgiving our debtors condones bad behavior. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Forgiving our debtors requires an apology first. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Forgiving our debtors removes their accountability to God. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Forgiving our debtors sets us free from anger, bitterness, and resentment. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Forgiving our debtors keeps us in unbroken fellowship with God. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Add your own thought. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Memory Verse**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 ESV

### ***Think it over . . .***

Is there any limit or expiration date on this promise? Is there a condition on this promise?



## Day Four – Spiritual Growth and Prayer

### 1 John 1:8–9 ESV

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Today is a simple exercise in meditating on 1 John 1:8–9, which includes this week’s memory verse. As we near the finish of our **Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer** series, assess your own spiritual growth and prayer. This is *not* a test—just a tool to get you thinking. Put an X on the line wherever it best represents your personal growth from the beginning of this study up to now.

Am I more sensitive to conviction of sin?

← Less Same More →

Am I quicker to repent of sin or to rationalize sin?

← Repent Same Rationalize →

Am I to quicker to forgive? To seek forgiveness?

← Less Same More →

Am I more confident to pray with others? To pray for others?

← Less Same More →

Note and record any additional thoughts or observations as you like.

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 ESV

### And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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## Honest to God

### A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

#### Session 9 – Lead Us Not into Temptation

Trouble. As Job said, we are born to it as surely as the sparks fly upward. There is no such thing as a trouble-free life. Think of the caterpillar being transformed into a butterfly. Hard to imagine such an earthbound, grubby little creature could ever fly! But something happens inside that cocoon. When the time comes to emerge, the young butterfly works hard to break through that chrysalis. Without struggle, it would have puny little wings and no strength to fly.

Troubles and temptation are not easy and certainly not pleasant. But God permits the struggle so we can emerge from that chrysalis of testing with fully developed faith.

#### Goals for this Session:

- Discover the difference between troubles and temptation.
- Consider how God uses life's problems and our prayers to accomplish His plan.
- Examine why God stores His treasure in jars of clay.
- Pray honest prayers that lead to praise and hold steady with hope.

#### Ice Breaker

Our culture changes the meaning of words like *sinful* or *tempting* in ordinary conversation. In what ways? How might that minimize their effectiveness in the church?

#### Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:13**, **John 17:14–17** and **1 Peter 5:6–10** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

## Day Two – Real Change Is an Inside Job

### Read James 1:12–14.

When we pray *lead us not into temptation*, we’re asking God to protect us from ambush by the enemy’s tactics and our own weakness. At the same time, it’s a prayer for strength to endure troubles that test our faith.

1. Jesus taught the disciples to pray for protection from temptation. The Lord knew perfectly well what His followers would be up against. It isn’t a sin to be tempted, for even Jesus faced temptation and left us an example to follow. How is temptation resisted and overcome?

Matthew 4:1–11

James 4:7–8

2. In the Lord’s Prayer, the word used for temptation also means testing. Using James 1:12–14, explain the difference between a test (trial) and being tempted.

**“I have had more  
trouble with myself  
than with any other  
man I have ever  
met.”**

D.L. Moody

God does not prevent us from being tempted, but He will always provide a way out. When trouble comes, by temptation or through a trial, it’s an opportunity to trust God. Real change is an inside job and strangely enough, both are useful in developing strong faith. It’s been suggested that when you aren’t experiencing trouble or temptation, pray *lead us not*—and when you *are* in trouble or temptation, pray *deliver us*. Agree? Share your thoughts.

3. Some temptations are meant to charm us and some are designed to cheat us. Either way, the devil’s end game is to chain us. As a growing Christian, the daily feed of temptations you used to struggle with may go right into the “spam” file now, without even a look. But the enemy has subtle ways of getting us to open his mail. Consider a few of the more common (as in familiar and frequent) temptations we might face.

Note what the Bible says and identify some ways this temptation might play out in everyday life. Briefly explain the effect it can have and practical ways to resist it.

Grumble / Complain – Philippians 2:14

Charm  Cheat  Both

Lack of Self-Control – Proverbs 25:28

Charm  Cheat  Both

Tongue Control – James 3:5, Ephesians 4:29

Charm  Cheat  Both

Jealousy and Selfish Ambition – James 3:14–16

Charm  Cheat  Both

Love of Money – Hebrews 13:5

Charm  Cheat  Both

Weary in Doing Good – Galatians 6:9–10

Charm  Cheat  Both

### **Memory Verse**

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.  
God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability,  
but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape,  
that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

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### ***Think it over . . .***

When it comes to temptation, why is running always the best option?

### Day Three – Deliver Us from the Evil One

Read **John 17:14–17** and **1 Peter 5:6–10**.

When we pray *deliver us from the evil one*, we concede our own weakness against Satan’s strategies and plead for the greater power of God.

1. Wherever Christians proclaim and live out the gospel, the enemy will oppose them. But we don’t face trouble alone or in our own strength. We have rock-solid assurances from God’s Word. Who prays for us, and what can we *always* be certain of?

John 17:14–17

Hebrews 7:25

1 John 4:4

2. **Stay Alert, Stand Firm** – 1 Peter 5:6–10. Peter was, by nature, fearless and outspoken. Confidence made him a good leader, but famously got him into trouble on more than one occasion. When the devil looks at **confidence**, he focuses on how to use the first syllable.

- a. On the night He was betrayed, Jesus warned Peter that Satan wanted to sift him like wheat. Peter was confident he could handle it (Luke 22:31–34). Jesus prayed for Peter that night, and it was an older, wiser Peter who wrote this letter to the church. Do you detect aspects of Peter’s past experience coming through his counsel? In what way?

- b. For you personally, what stands out most about Peter’s counsel in 1 Peter 5:6–10?

- c. We need to be alert and aware of the evil one, but never forget who guards your soul. God’s eye is on you and He will work everything for your good.

2 Chronicles 16:9

Romans 8:28–29

- d. Do you find yourself digging more into God’s Word when the pressure is on? Share a favorite verse you go to when you need strength for the battle.

3. **Treasure in Clay Jars** – 2 Corinthians 4:5–9. We keep valuables safely locked in vaults. But God chooses to store His treasure, the Gospel, only in vulnerable human containers. We are fragile, breakable clay jars, but the light that is shining in our hearts cannot be extinguished.

The enemy knows this, and hates it. Paul describes his trouble and declares what the enemy failed to do.

<u>Outward Opposition</u>	- But Not -	<u>Inner Effects</u>
Hard pressed (restricted; confined)		Crushed (demoralized; stymied)
Perplexed (unsure of how to proceed)		Despair (without resource or hope)
Persecuted (persistently hassled)		Forsaken (dropped; deserted)
Struck Down (suddenly thrown; laid flat)		Destroyed (reduced to nothing)

- a. Paul did not preach himself—but he certainly preached *to* himself on a regular basis, and so must we. The devil can't extinguish the power of the Gospel but he can get us to hide our light. Corrie ten Boom, who survived the horrors of Ravensbrück, was fond of saying that God has plans, not problems, for our lives. The darker life got, the brighter and more beautiful the Gospel was for her to share. Do we believe it?

Maybe you can relate to Paul's experience in some way. Is the enemy trying to prevent your light from shining through some difficulty? If you believe God has Jeremiah 29:11 plans for you in spite of the problem, use the space below as a simple prayer.

\_\_\_\_\_ - But Not - \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Paul was not immune to trouble, but he trusted God to protect him from spiritual harm. How does Paul express confidence in God's protection?

Romans 8:31, 37

2 Timothy 4:18

### Memory Verse

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.  
 God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability,  
 but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape,  
 that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

### Think it over . . .

What might a God-chosen way of escape look like? What might a human response look like?



## Day Four – Your Kingdom, Your Power, Your Glory...Forever. Amen!

### Read 1 Chronicles 29:10–13.

When we pray *deliver us from the evil one*, we are looking forward to the day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. It will be the last prayer of all to be answered. God's kingdom will come. God's will on earth will be done just as it is in Heaven.

1. We finished our ***David: Profiles of an Authentic Life*** series with King David's prayer as he dedicated the future building of the Lord's house. David stood in the place where the temple would be, but was not yet. It is remarkable how similar David's prayer is to the Lord's Prayer. Do you see it? He was praying and praising God for the now and *someday*. And in this last phrase of the Lord's Prayer, *we* are praying and praising God for the now and *someday*.

It has been said that a believer's life is really marked by only two days on the calendar: this day, and THAT DAY. Give that some thought. What does it mean and how do you want that to be reflected in your life and prayers?

2. David's prayer book is the Psalms, and it is our prayer book too. In 150 separate psalms, we are taught to pray our needs and emotions in healthy, instructive ways. And mostly, we learn to pray our praise. The Lord's Prayer covers the same landscape in 66 words. We hope you will continue to use this pattern of prayer and let it inform the way you read, think, and pray through every other part of the Bible.

Finish your time today with a simple, one-sentence prayer for each:

Your Kingdom

Your Power

Your Glory

Forever!

## Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

### Memory Verse

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.  
God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability,  
but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape,  
that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

### And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”**

**Greg Laurie**

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests

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