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WHEN YOU PRAY

Learning to Talk
with Our Father



The Cycle of Grace

Forgiven people forgive
Matthew 6:12

GOSPEL THEME:

Jesus doesn't just teach us *how* to pray—He invites us into a relationship with the Father through the gospel. The Lord's Prayer reorients our priorities, reminds us of our dependence, and roots us in grace and trust.



The Cycle of Grace

Forgiven people forgive
Matthew 6:12

What is prayer?

"Prayer is communion with God as our Father, made possible through Christ and empowered by the Spirit."

Matthew 6:5-13

9 Pray then like this:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**11 Give us this day our daily bread,
12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

**13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Matthew 6:5-13

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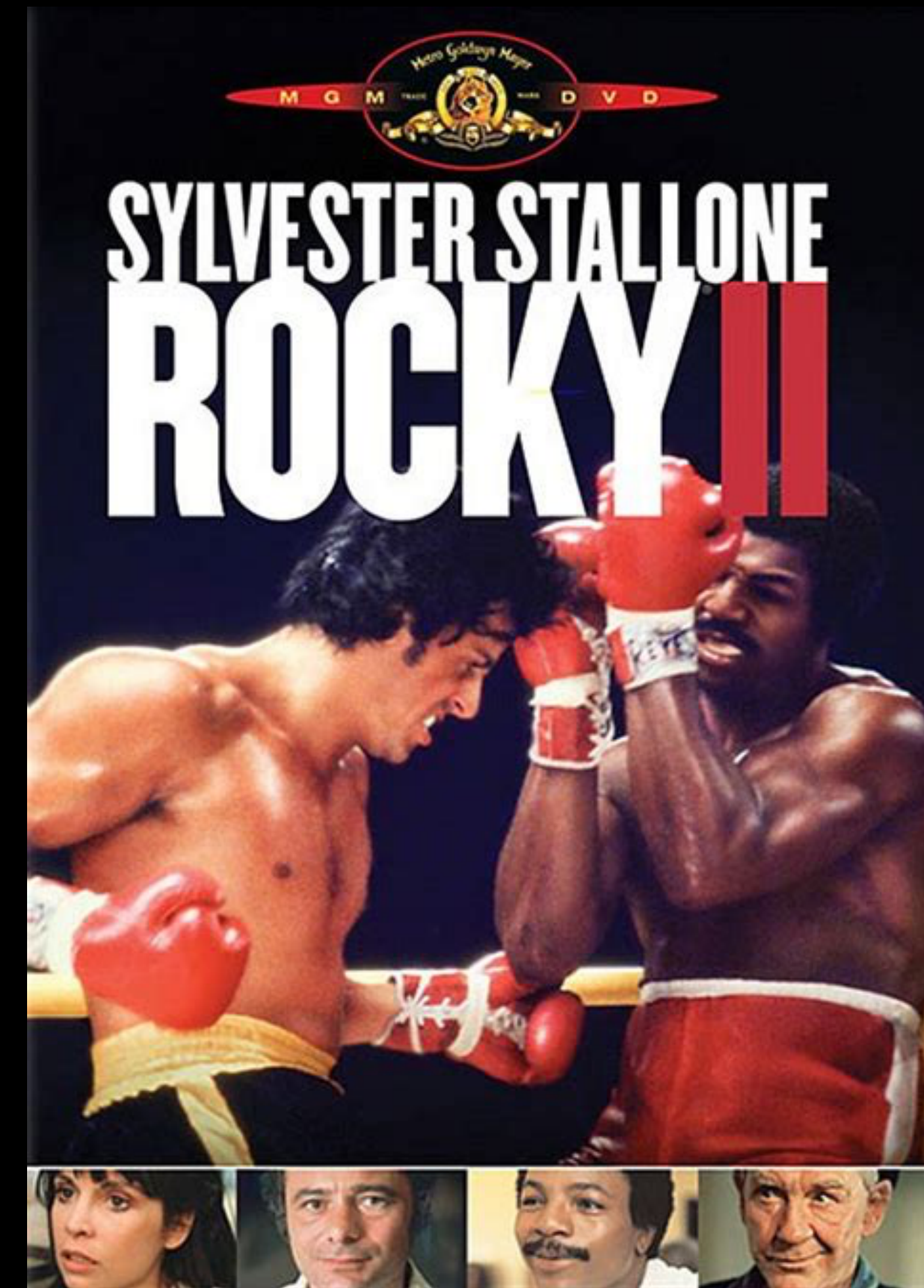
The Cycle of Grace

Forgiven people forgive
Matthew 6:12

Big Idea:

Forgiven people forgive.

Prayer in Films





UNBROKEN





The Cycle of Grace

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” - Matthew 6:12



The Cycle of Grace

- I. Forgive Us:** Confession Keeps Our Hearts Soft
- II. Our Debts:** Sin is a debt only God can erase
- III. As We Forgive:** The Forgiven Forgive



The Cycle of Grace

I. Forgive Us: Confession Keeps Our Hearts Soft

The grace that forgives us is meant to reshape us.

The Cycle of Grace

I. Forgive Us: Confession Keeps Our Hearts Soft

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get. 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

Luke 18:9-14



The Cycle of Grace

I. Forgive Us: Confession Keeps Our Hearts Soft

“I am sorry.”

I was wrong.”

“Please forgive me.”

“I love you.”



The Cycle of Grace

“In short, I call for a revival of sin. What would be the good of that you ask? Why do we need more breast beaters? Why not a no fault theology? No one to blame. Things just happen, ‘whoops!’ But here’s why, the assumption of sin implies both a possibility and an obligation for intervention. We want to help ourselves and others and hence sin is the only hopeful view. When evil appears around us and no one is responsible, no one is guilty, no moral questions are asked, then there is in short nothing to do. So we sink to despairing hopelessness. The consequence of my proposal would not be more depression, but less.”



Karl Menninger
1893-1990



The Cycle of Grace

I. **Forgive Us:** Confession Keeps Our Hearts Soft

When we pray “forgive us,” we admit our guilt and “continually flee to God’s mercy.” Institutes of the Christian Religion 3.20.9–12.

“Sin unconfessed hardens the heart and strengthens Satan’s hold... Confession plucks the weapon out of his hand.”

Christian in Complete Armour, Vol. 1, p. 132



The Cycle of Grace

I. Forgive Us: Confession Keeps Our Hearts Soft

APPLICATION:

Confession is how we stop performing and start depending.

God requires us to stop hiding behind generalities and to name the anger, the jealousy, the lust, the coldness, the pride.



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The Cycle of Grace

II. Our Debts: Sin is a debt only God can erase

“Forgive us our debts” v. 12

Confession

Atonement

Forgiveness

Jesus chooses a financial term on purpose: debt.



The Cycle of Grace

II. Our Debts: Sin is a debt only God can erase

“Forgive us our debts” v. 12

Confession

Atonement

Forgiveness

“Jesus deliberately uses the language of debts to remind us that sin is a moral obligation we can never repay. Only God’s free pardon can cancel the debt.” - Calvin



The Cycle of Grace

II. Our Debts: Sin is a debt only God can erase

“Forgive us our debts” v. 12

What does God require?

- That we stop playing the role of Savior in our own lives.
- That we abandon the quiet narrative that says, “I’ll make it up to You.”



The Cycle of Grace

“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

Colossians 2:13-14



The Cycle of Grace

II. Our Debts: Sin is a debt only God can erase

APPLICATION:

Where are we tempted to repay God?

- **When you fail**, and your instinct is to promise spiritual improvement as compensation.
- **When you serve**, hoping it earns spiritual standing or moral leverage.
- **When shame appears**, and you withdraw from worship because you feel “unworthy.”
- **When assurance wavers**, because you believe God forgives others but you’re not convinced He forgives *you*.
- **When comparison and spiritual pride emerge**, giving you a false sense of identity.



DANUBE
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

The Cycle of Grace

III. **As We Forgive:** The Forgiven Forgive



The Cycle of Grace

III. **As We Forgive:** The Forgiven Forgive

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

God requires us to release others from the debts they owe us.



The Cycle of Grace

III. As We Forgive: The Forgiven Forgive

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

God requires us to release others from the debts they owe us.

What about justice?

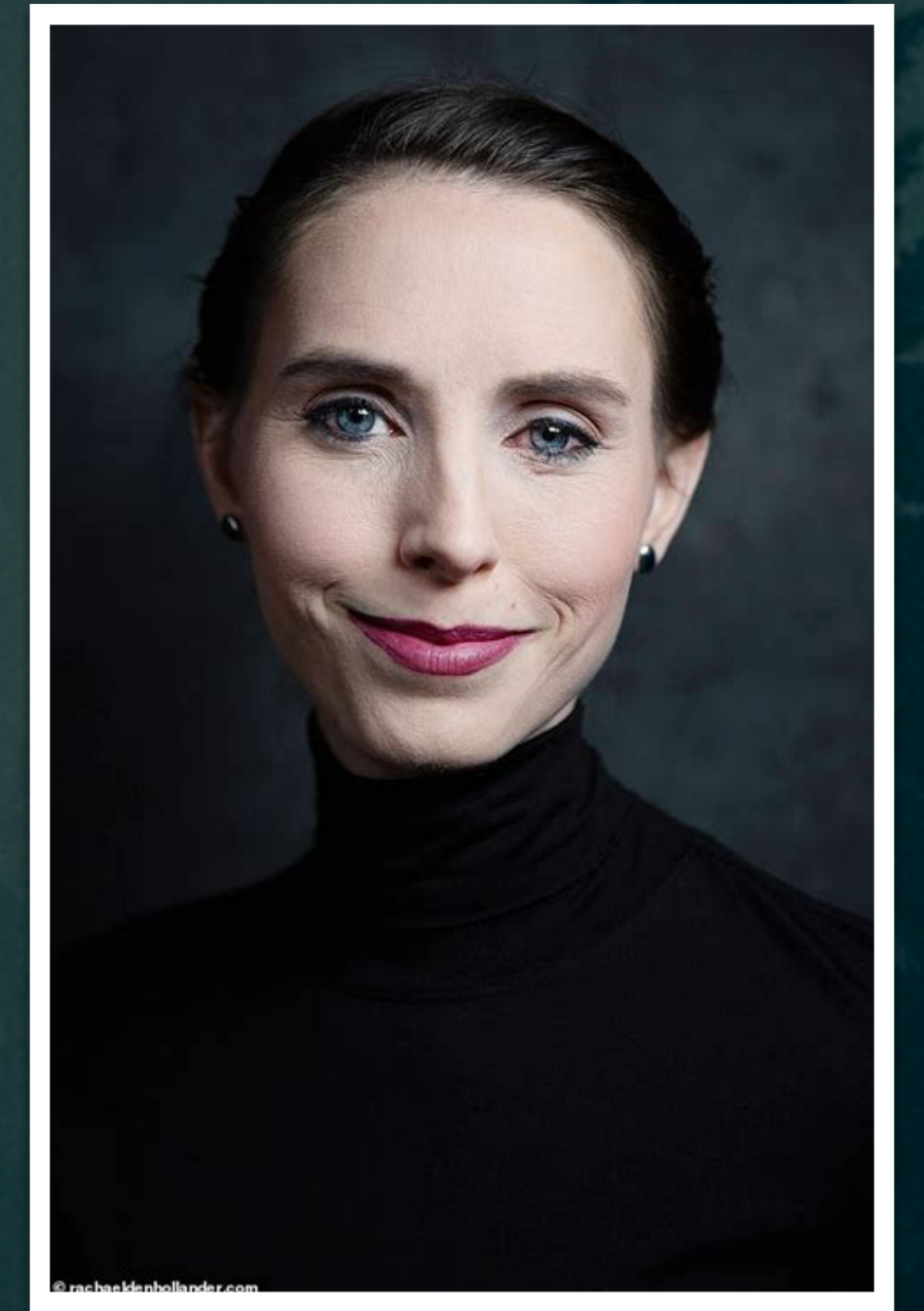


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III. As We Forgive: The Forgiven Forgive

What about justice?



Rachael Denhollander



The Cycle of Grace

III. As We Forgive: The Forgiven Forgive

APPLICATION

Living in the Cycle of Grace



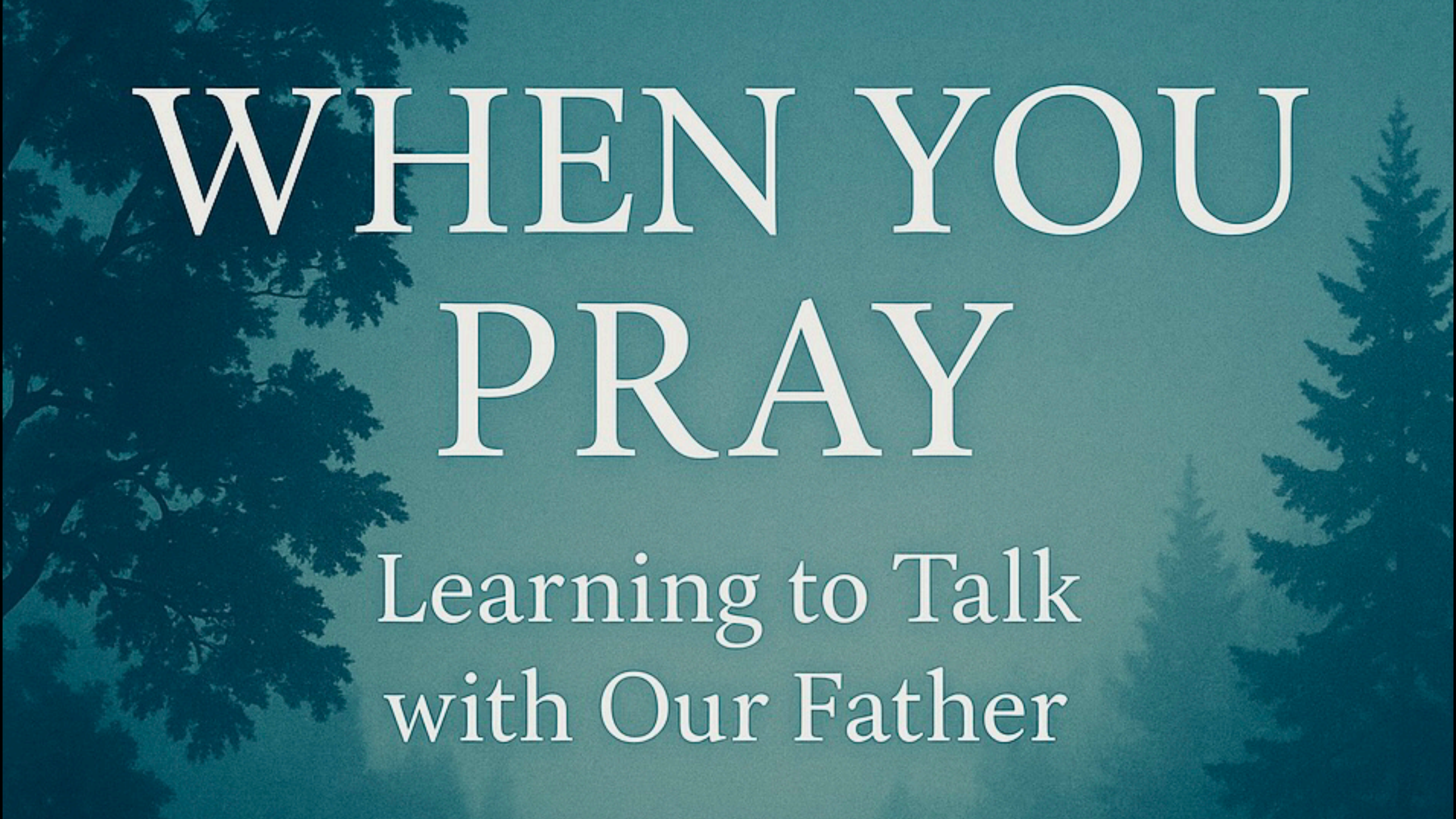
The Cycle of Grace

III. As We Forgive: The Forgiven Forgive

APPLICATION

Living in the Cycle of Grace

Forgiven People Forgive

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