

The Lord's Prayer Blueprint

Matthew 6:9-13

In Matthew 6:1–8, Jesus confronted hypocrisy and religious performance, warning His disciples against praying like the hypocrites who love public applause, or like the pagans who use vain repetitions to manipulate their gods.

In verses 9–13, Jesus provides the ultimate counter-model: a pattern for genuine, covenantal intimacy with God. Moving from God-centered adoration (Hallowing His Name, Seeking His Kingdom, Submitting to His Will) to human-centered dependence (Daily Bread, Forgiveness of Debts, Protection from Evil), the Lord's Prayer realigns the believer's heart with the cosmic rule and reign of the Heavenly Father.

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⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: 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 forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. ^{a1} For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Notes:

DISCOVERY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **THE REVOLUTION OF ABBA FATHER (v. 9):** Jesus begins by addressing God as "Our Father in heaven." How does balancing God's intimate accessibility (*Father*) with His transcendent authority (*in heaven*) protect our prayer life from becoming either distant and legalistic OR irreverent and casual?
2. **PRIORITIZING GOD'S KINGDOM OVER OUR AGENDAS (v. 10):** The first three petitions focus entirely on God's Name, God's Kingdom, and God's Will before bringing a single personal request. How can you practically shift your prayer life from being a "shopping list of personal desires" to an alignment with God's sovereign agenda on earth?
3. **DAILY BREAD VS. SELF-RELIANT ANXIETY (v. 11):** Requesting "daily bread" (*epiousios*) forces us to acknowledge our moment-by-moment dependence on God rather than trusting in accumulated wealth or self-reliance. Where in your life are you struggling to trust God for *today's* provision because you are anxious about *tomorrow's* supply?
4. **THE DANGER OF UNFORGIVENESS (v. 12):** Jesus links our receipt of God's forgiveness directly to our willingness to forgive our debtors. In light of the massive moral debt Christ canceled on your behalf at the cross, what unreleased offense or resentment are you holding onto that needs to be surrendered today?