



## Message Series Guide

### Without Ceasing

### Part 3 – The Lord’s Prayer

### Matthew 6:7-13

The Lord’s Prayer is often called the model prayer. If you find it difficult to know how to pray, you are not alone as Jesus gave The Lord’s Prayer in response to the disciples asking Him, “Lord, teach us to pray. Jesus also taught His disciples how *not* to pray! He warned against praying with long, empty prayers filled with eloquent language in the hopes of impressing people, rather than speaking directly to God from the heart. Through Jesus, God invites us to boldly approach Him through prayer, stripped of any pretense or performance. He has given us a perfect model to follow. As we build a life of prayer, our conversation with God will flow from the heart, and there is no better place to start (or even to continue) than with Jesus’ own words.

### READ:

**Matthew 6:7-13 | Matthew 18:3 | Philippians 4:6 | I John 4:19 | I Corinthians 10:13**

- Is there a right and wrong way to pray? Why or why not? Have you seen people pray like those described in Matthew 18:3? How did that make you feel? What does Scripture say their reward will be (v.5)?
- How does the way we address God reflect our relationship with God? In what ways is God like a father? How is God both personal and corporate?
- The word, *hallowed* means, “to honor as holy”. What makes God holy? Why is it vital to desire the presence of God more than the answered prayers of God?
- Where is God’s Kingdom? When will God’s Kingdom be finally established? How is it being established now? When we pray, “your kingdom come, your will be done...” to what are we prayerfully submitting?
- What does it mean to ask God for our daily bread? Why might we have a tendency in America to overlook this part of The Lord’s Prayer? How does this part of the prayer reveal a dependency on God?
- What does the confession of sin accomplish in our spiritual walk? How can confession change your attitude toward those who have sinned against you?
- What is the battle that rages between the flesh and spirit? How does The Lord’s Prayer help in that battle?

### DISCUSS:

- What’s your earliest memory of The Lord’s Prayer? Did you grow up saying it at church or other events?
- When Jesus gave us The Lord’s Prayer, did He mean for us to recite it, model our prayers after it, or both? In other words, just what did Jesus mean for us to learn from it?
- When you pray for God’s will to be done one earth and in your life do you really mean it? What does it look like for God’s will to be done one earth just as it is in heaven?
- In what ways could The Lord’s Prayer be used as model for living?

### PRAY:

Think of ways you can model your prayer life after The Lord’s Prayer. Spend time in prayer this week addressing the elements of The Lord’s Prayer.

### RESPOND:

Commit to participate with The Ridge’s 21-Days of Prayer emphasis (January 11-31). Go to [www.theridge.cc](http://www.theridge.cc) to view the prayer guide for further instruction and information. **Night of Prayer + Worship – January 29 at 6p**