

Teach Us To Pray

- Opening Announcements
- Associate Pastor Survey Push
- Opening Prayer

Q: What IS prayer?

Q: Why is prayer vital to our life?

Q: Why is prayer "hard"?

Table Time...

READ: Matthew 6:5-15 ""And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 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. ¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Q: What stands out to you about this section?

Q: Is there anything challenge in this section? What and Why?

Q: Is there anything comforting, encouraging or interesting in this section? What and Why?

Q: What's one take-away from Jesus teaching on prayer?

Q: How might you take "The Lord's Prayer" and go deeper with it?

Practical Steps of Prayer...

Q: How might you use the Lord's Prayer as a Structure for an increased discipline of prayer?

Suggestions:

"Petition a Day" - the Lord's Prayer is broken into:

The Introduction: "Our Father Who art in heaven"

The First Petition: "Hallowed be Thy Name"

The Second Petition: "Thy kingdom come"

The Third Petition: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

The Fourth Petition: "Give us this day our daily bread"

The Fifth Petition: "And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

The Sixth Petition: "And lead us not into temptation"

The Seventh Petition: "But deliver us from evil"

Conclusion: "For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen"

NOTE: You could easily meditate, journal, pray over a section a day for more than a week!

Begin/Close:

You could begin or close your devotions, or before you go to bed with the Lord's Prayer. This is especially good with young children where they learn and pray the Lord's Prayer every day. You will be surprised at how early they can learn this!

Prayer Day/Retreat Format:

You can easily adapt the Lord's Prayer for a DAY of Prayer, using each petition to frame each hour of a day.

Q: What are some other suggestions that you might think of or have experience in using the Lord's Prayer?

Q: Why is the Lord's Prayer so powerful?

Other Resources:

- Luther's Small Catechism has a GREAT section on the Lord's Prayer
 - Luther's Large Catechism has a GREAT section on the Lord's Prayer
- Others?