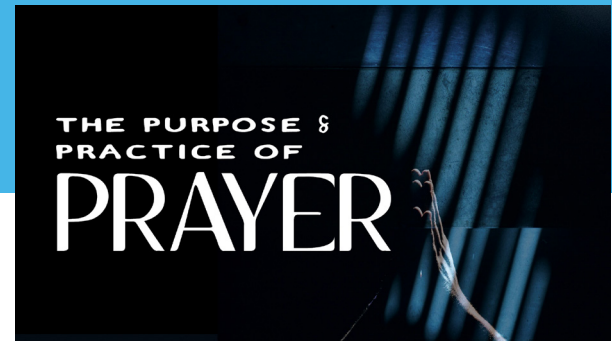


Discussion Questions

October 8, 2023



Practicing Prayer: "Lord, Teach Us To Pray"

1. What has been your own experience of praying "The Lord's Prayer?" (Do you pray it much at all? Has it felt dry or life giving? Do you "recite" it more than "pray" it? Has it changed for you over time?)

Read: Luke 11:1-4 and Matthew 6:9-13

2. What do you think it meant when Jesus told the disciples, "when you pray, pray like this"? Is it the same for us today?

3. What significance is there to addressing God as "Our Father" in our prayers?

4. What does it mean to pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"?

5. Discuss the connection between seeking forgiveness from God and extending forgiveness to others.

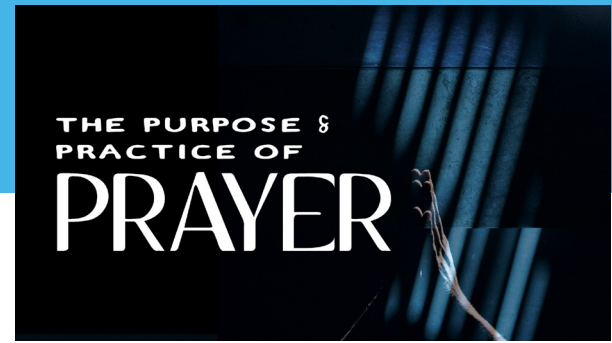
6. In what ways does the Lord's Prayer act as a "tuning fork" to help you tune your prayers to the right pitch? Or to see Jesus as the composer of the oratorio where we play his music?

7. How can the Lord's prayer be an invitation to share in the prayer-life of Jesus and in His own intimacy with the Father?

Conclude by praying together The Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13

Prayer Practice

October 8, 2023



The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13

Each day set aside a few minutes to pray through this prayer. As you do, prepare your heart and mind. Recognize that you are in the presence of our dearest Lord and "Abba" Father.

As you pray out each line, prayerfully consider the significance of those words and pray them out to the father.

Linger on each stanza. Pray whatever comes to mind.

As you pray, "your kingdom come, your will be done," actively seek the Lord for what that looks like for you today.

As you pray "forgive us our debtors as we have also forgiven our debtors," ask the Holy Spirit to show you if there are any areas where your "fist is clenched" in unforgiveness.

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.***

Luke 11:1

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray,

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

NT Wright - Into God's Presence

The Lord's Prayer is an invitation to share in the prayer-life of Jesus himself... the Son is inviting His followers to share the intimacy of His own life with the Father.

Our Father in heaven,

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

Give us today **our** daily bread. And forgive **us our** debts, as **we** also have forgiven **our** debtors. And lead **us** not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Dr. Kent Hughes - Luke: That You May Know the Truth

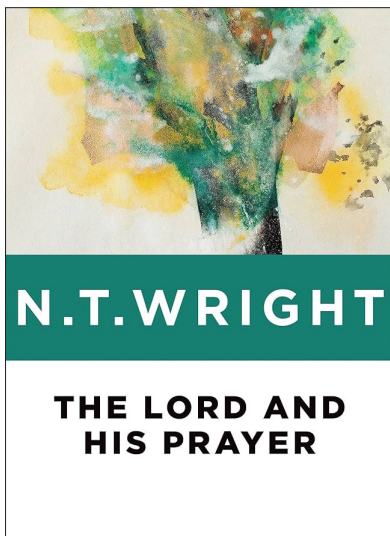
Have we really seen or heard the Lord's Prayer? Perhaps we need to see it anew—not so much to discover new truth, but to see the old truth for what it is. Then we will be delivered from merely "saying" the Lord's Prayer.

Dr. David Garland - Zondervan Exegetical Commentary

Jesus intends the model [Lord's] prayer to function like a tuning fork by which disciples can measure whether their prayers are in the right pitch.

Romans 8:15 (NIV)

...the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

**NT Wright - The Lord and His Prayer**

That's why calling God 'Father' is the great act of faith, of holy boldness, of risk. Saying 'our father' isn't just the boldness, of walking into the presence of the living and almighty God and saying 'Hi, Dad.' It is the boldness, the sheer total risk, of saying quietly 'Please may I, too, be considered an apprentice son.' It means signing on for the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 6:9

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

Matthew 6:14–15 (NLT)

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Dr. David Garland - Zondervan Exegetical Commentary

A forgiving spirit is the outstretched hand by which we grasp God's forgiveness. When that hand is closed tightly into a fist, it can receive nothing. Being forgiving is 'not the ground on which God bestows forgiveness but the ground on which man can receive it.'

James 1:13–15 (NIV)

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

C.S. Lewis - Letters to Malcolm, Chiefly on Prayer

..our minds spread into wide and shallow puddles..

Matthew 6:7–9 (NIV)

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "This, then, is how you should pray:

NT Wright - The Lord and His Prayer

..think of it like this. Jesus is the medical genius who discovered penicillin; we are doctors, ourselves being cured by the medicine, now applying it to those who need it. Jesus is the musical genius who wrote the greatest oratorio of all time; we are the musicians, captivated by his composition ourselves, who now perform it before a world full of [loud noises]. The Kingdom did indeed come with Jesus; but it will fully come when the world is healed, when the whole creation finally joins in the song. But it must be Jesus' medicine; it must be Jesus' music. And the only way to be sure of that is to pray his prayer...

I used to think of this clause simply as a prayer of resignation. 'Thy will be done', with a shrug of the shoulders: what I want doesn't matter too much; if God really wants to do something I suppose I can put up with it. That might do if God were a remote, detached, God. It won't do for Isaiah's God; it won't do for Jesus; and it won't do for those who break bread and drink wine to remember Jesus and pray for the kingdom. No: this is the risky, crazy prayer of submission and commission, or, if you like, the prayer of subversion and conversion. It is the way we sign on, in our turn, for the work of the kingdom. It is the way we take the medicine ourselves, so that we may be strong enough to administer it to others. It is the way we retune our instruments, to play God's oratorio for the world to sing.