



Prayer: Connecting with Our Father

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Supply List

General Supplies

- Facilitator Guide
- Participant Guides
- Prayer Resource CD
- Pens
- Markers
- Whiteboard/Posterboard/Flipchart paper
- Bibles

Prayer with a Purpose

- Play dough/clay
- Whiteboard/Flipchart paper/markers
- Pens

Hallowed be Your Name

- Play dough/clay
- Whiteboard/Flipchart paper/markers
- Pens
- Bibles

Daily Bread

- Whiteboard/Flipchart paper/markers
- Pens

Your Kingdom Come

- Whiteboard/Flipchart paper/markers
- Pens
- Bibles

Forgive Us Our Debts

- Whiteboard/Flipchart paper/markers
- Pens

Deliver Us From Evil

- Whiteboard/Flipchart paper/markers
- Pens

Prayer: Connecting with Our Father

Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan

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A Special Note for Churches who Have Completed Motivation for Mission or Natural Evangelism:

Congratulations on taking the next step in the Groups Ablaze program! We hope you will find the Prayer series a way to strengthen the outreach focus in your church.

The Prayer Study is designed to be used as a stand-alone study as well as a follow-up to Motivation for Mission and Natural Evangelism. Therefore, you most likely have the small group structure in place and may not need to repeat every step in this Implementation Plan.

You have already laid the groundwork for church interest during the previous study. Interest surveys and new bulletin inserts are included; however, the promotional campaign and preparation may be shortened considerably. Another option is to have a two-week transition/break period immediately following MM or NE, and then begin the Prayer series right away.

If you are using the same SG Coordinator and Host Homes, perhaps only a refresher session is needed. If you have new Host Home leaders that were participants in the last study, or if they are new to the process, some training/orientation may be required. Please feel free to adapt this plan as necessary.

Many blessings on your Small Group ministry!

Introduction

Calendar						
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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First Steps

Where to Start

The following pages include specific actions that you can take prior to and during the Prayer Study. However, these steps may need to be adapted to fit your church's needs.

1. **Pray!!!** As you are reading this, **pray!** **Prayer** is at the heart of any successful ministry. **Pray** for God to show you a deeper sense of our purpose as individuals as well as a church to reach the lost! Enlist the **prayer** power of your church leaders. Get as many people possible **praying** for this season of Prayer: Connecting with Our Father.

2. Read through Prayer material if you have not done so already. The Word in the training will build you up and create excitement in your heart for what God is going to do in your church!
3. Mark your calendar for an **Informational Meeting** to be held **on the Sunday of Week 3 Prior to Study** at a time convenient for the greatest number of people (before service, during Sunday school, etc.).
4. Recruit a Small Group Coordinator. This coordinator will be instrumental to the success of the study. The coordinator may be a staff member or lay person.
5. Distribute Interest Surveys to the congregation and select church leaders. Also complete the Pastor Profile. Compile the results and submit to your District ME as well as Dwight Marable at Dwight@missions.com. The surveys are located on the Resource CD.

To Do List



- _____ Pray!
- _____ Enlist prayers of church leaders
- _____ Distribute surveys and complete Pastor Profile
- _____ Mark calendar for Informational Meeting
- _____ Make arrangements for the meeting
- _____ Recruit a Small Group Leader

Possible Small Group Leaders:

Small Group Coordinator Job Description

Duties

Recruit small group Hosts

Attend Informational Meeting

Act as a contact/support person for Hosts

Contact each Host Home weekly to provide follow-up and coaching

Monitor Host Homes and troubleshoot. Have a sense of attendance in the groups, not an exact number.

Keep the Pastor informed

Qualifications

A heart for small groups

Enthusiastic and excited about Prayer: Connecting with Our Father

Good relationships

Outgoing person with strategic planning gifts

Ability to problem-solve and delegate

Is known by the church and respected

Ability to organize and good follow-through skills

SAMPLE Church Member Interest Survey



Survey

1. Are you a visitor to this church?

_____ Yes _____ No

2. If you are a member, have you been here more than 5 years?

_____ Yes _____ No

3. Would you be interested in participating in 6 Bible studies that may be held in homes of the members of the church?

_____ Yes _____ No

*If yes, please sign your name here:

4. Did you grow up in the Lutheran Church?

_____ Yes _____ No

5. Did you come to faith as either a teenager or adult, not in your childhood?

_____ Yes _____ No

6. Would you be interested in learning about small groups designed to reach out to non-Christians or unchurched Christians?

_____ Yes _____ No

SAMPLE Church Leader Interest Survey



Survey for Church Leaders LCMS Groups Ablaze

1. Name: _____
2. Email Address: _____
3. Church Name: _____
4. How long have you been a member of this congregation? _____
5. How long have you been a Christian? _____
Were you an adult convert? _____
6. If you have children, what are their ages? _____
7. What is your leadership role in the church? _____
8. Have you participated in a small group at this congregation that meets in a member's home? ____
If the answer is yes, what was the purpose of that group? _____
9. Would you be interested in hosting a group for 6 meetings in your home with church members? _____
10. About how many people who are not actively involved in a church or are not believers do you know well enough that you could call their name if you saw them in a grocery store? _____
11. Would you be interested in learning about small groups that reach out to the unchurched or people who are not believers? _____
12. Have you received any training on how to share the Gospel in the past 5 years? If so, could you share with us the name of the training program(s)?

SAMPLE Pastor Profile

Groups Ablaze Groups Ablaze Pastor Profile
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

1. Name: _____
2. Church: _____
3. Email Address: _____
4. Mailing Address: _____
5. Length of time of service at present church: _____
6. What evangelistic training events have you participated in during the last 5 years?

7. Does your church currently have small groups? _____
If so, what would you consider to be the primary purpose of those groups?

How long have they been meeting? _____
8. Could you describe any outreach activities at your church? (Please use the back of the page to complete) _____
9. What is the average age of those who attend your Sunday services? _____
10. Approximately how many families in the 20-40 year old age range attend regularly? _____
11. If you have equipped your members to share their faith, would you describe the type of training you used and how many participated, as well as any results?

SAMPLE Survey Report



Groups Ablaze Survey Report

CHURCH INFORMATION

First Lutheran Church, 55 Main Street, Any Town, NJ 01010

Pastor: **Joe Smith** Telephone: **555-555-5555** Email: **joe@firstlutheran.org**

District: **New Jersey** District ME: **John Jones**

RESULTS FROM SURVEY FOR CHURCH MEMBERS:

40 Total Respondents, **35** members and **5** visitors

Of the 5 visitors:

2 would be interested in participating in the 6 Bible Studies.

4 grew up in the Lutheran Church.

1 teen/adult convert

2 would be interested in learning more about small groups.

Of the 35 members:

28 have been members for more than 5 years.

31 are interested in participating in the 6 Bible Studies, **2** are not, **2** unsure.

24 grew up in the Lutheran Church, **11** did not.

23 teen/adult converts

17 would be interested in learning more about small groups, **4** unsure, **14** are not.

RESULTS FROM SURVEY FOR CHURCH LEADERS:

Names:

Linda Jones

Linda@yahoo.com

Jeff Smith

jeff@comcast.net

How long have you been a member of this congregation? **Average of 22 years**

How long have you been a Christian? **Average of 41 years**

2 Adult Converts

1 respondent has children under 18.

Leadership roles include: **Treasurer, Stewardship committee, Family Ministry board, Church Council secretary, Congregation President and Vice President, Elder**

Have you participated in a small group that meets in a home at this congregation? **2 yes**

If the answer is yes, what was the purpose of that group? **Bible Study, Stewardship**

Would you be interested in hosting a group for 6 meetings in your home with church members which would focus on the mission and purpose of the church?

2 maybe, 5 no

About how many people who are not actively involved in a church or are not believers do you know well enough that you could call their name if you saw them in a grocery store?

3 - 0/no answer, 2 - 2-3, 2 - 15-20

Would you be interested in learning about small groups that reach out to the unchurched or people who are not believers?

5 - yes, 2 - maybe

Have you received any training on how to share the Gospel in the past 5 years? If so, could you share with us the name of the training programs?

0 - received training

RESULTS FROM SURVEY FOR CHURCH PASTOR:

Time of Service: **3 years**

Evangelistic Training in past 5 years: **None**

Does your church currently have small groups? **No**

Outreach activities:

Board of Family Ministry holds events with members inviting guests. Twice a year we have a venison dinner.

Average age of congregation: **45+**

Families in the 20-40 range: **20**

Equipping Training: **None**

Preparation

Calendar						
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Five Weeks
Prior to Study

Rollout Sunday

The pastor should talk about the Prayer series at the opening of his sermon and mention it every Sunday. Excitement and enthusiasm are contagious. If the Sr. Pastor and the SG Coordinator are excited, then the members will want to be a part.

See next page for **suggested announcement**.

**YOU CANNOT COMMUNICATE TOO MUCH!!
BE CREATIVE.
FIND WAYS TO BUILD ENTHUSIASM EACH WEEK!**

Suggested Announcement:

On _____, we are very excited about starting a new six-week Bible study called Prayer: Connecting with Our Father. These interactive Bible studies will equip us in the high impact behaviors of praying, reaching, caring, and empowering AND will initiate new harvest-oriented small groups. Pastor will be preaching sermons that coordinate with the home Bible studies to help us all focus on God's plan for this church.

This will be a time of fellowship in homes around the Word of God! Some of you will want to host the home meetings and everyone will want to join a group for the 6 discovery studies.

Look at the insert in your bulletin. Take a moment and fill out the card and put it in the offering plate. For those of you interested in being a host home, there will be an informational meeting at _____, on Sunday, _____. If you have any questions, please see me or _____ (SG Coordinator).

Preparation

Calendar						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Four Weeks Prior to Study

Sunday

Repeat “**Prayer Bulletin Insert**” and **suggested announcement** on page 13. Emphasize the meeting next Sunday (give time and place) for the Host Home volunteers. Pray for God to bless the congregation with new insights about His purpose for the church and members.

**YOU CANNOT COMMUNICATE TOO MUCH!!
BE CREATIVE.
FIND WAYS TO BUILD ENTHUSIASM EACH WEEK!**

What to Do this Week:

Continue to help the SG Coordinator recruit host homes by phone calls to key lay leaders asking for their participation as Host Homes. Invite them to the Informational Meeting.

To Do List



- _____ Use Bulletin Insert
- _____ Continue to announce the Study
- _____ Prepare for meeting
- _____ Invite potential Host Homes to meeting

Possible Host Homes:

Preparation

Calendar						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Three Weeks
Prior to Study

Sunday

Announce the **Informational Meeting** and give one last invitation for people interested in learning about Host Homes.

See instructions for the meeting on the next page. This meeting will be led by the Pastor and SG Coordinator. The meeting should last approximately one hour and yet no longer than one hour and fifteen minutes.

Informational Meeting

This is the opportunity to introduce the series. Prayer focuses on the four essential components of a small group: praying leaders, focused outreach, loving and caring relationships, and empowerment. Your excitement about the study will catch on with everyone. Be sure that you have read through all of the six lessons so that you are genuinely excited about what the church is going to experience and learn. (Be sure you collect everyone's contact information, including email addresses.)

The Hosts' Role

1. A small group will be meeting in their home 1-2 hours per week, once a week for six weeks.
2. Hosts are encouraged to invite their friends to attend their meetings. These friends can be from church or outside church. A group size of 10-12 is ideal; 15 is the recommended maximum.
3. Hosts read the Facilitator's Guide and lead the group through the material. (This is not teaching but helping them follow the activities in the Guide.)
4. Hosts coordinate for participants to bring refreshments.

Orientation Activity

During this meeting take 30 minutes to give the Hosts some experience using the Facilitator's Guides. Do this early in the meeting to allow time for questions and discussion of the process afterwards.

Instructions: Distribute copies of the Facilitator Guide pages for the first lesson, *Prayer With a Purpose*. Explain the Facilitator Guide pages vs. Participant Guide pages. Show a copy of the Participant Guides to everyone, but have them use the Facilitator Guides.

You will be the facilitator, they will be participants. Have them follow along as you go over “Learning Activity,” pages 1-2 of the Facilitator Guide. Stop at Learning Activity. After the activity, briefly review the balance of the lesson. Tell the hosts: “It may not be possible to cover every activity in one hour. It is okay to leave off sections – use your best judgment.”

Discussion

After the group has seen what it is like to be a facilitator, open the floor for questions. Possible questions might include:

Food: Refreshments are encouraged. Suggest that couples in the group take turns bringing refreshments. Refreshments are for after the meeting.

Time: The study should take about one hour to one hour and fifteen minutes each week, with 30-45 minutes of refreshment time following.

Child Care: Ideally children would be cared for at their homes or at a location other than the host home.

Schedule: Each host will decide which night, or weekend time to meet. Please let the SG Coordinator know when you will meet.

“I can’t do this!”: It does not take a pastor or a teacher to lead this study, just the willingness. If anyone is still nervous after the exposure to the process, suggest that the group in the home could act as the facilitator as a group by reading the facilitator materials.

Wrap-Up

Close the meeting by asking who will commit to be a Host Home leader. Get a feel for where everyone is at and have the SG Coordinator follow up. Decisions are due by **Friday**. The coordinator will be contacting them. **PRAY** together for God’s blessings on this study!

What to Do this Week:

SG Coordinator should follow up on the Informational Meeting to see who is ready to commit.

SG Coordinator needs to follow up with all committed to be Host Homes and collect the following information to publish for the church:

- Day and time of meeting
- Address
- Phone number, email

This is a great time to encourage, pray together and generally enjoy the process, for both the SG Coordinator and Host Homes! Excitement builds excitement. Encourage the Hosts to contact other members in the church and invite them.

To Do List



- _____ Continue to announce the Study
- _____ Conduct Informational Meeting
- _____ Assist SG Coordinator with meeting follow-up

Preparation

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Two Weeks
Prior to Study

Sunday

Continue to announce the Study. A list of Host Homes will be available next week!

What to Do this Week:

SG Coordinator should compile a list of Hosts with their information for the church bulletin or to be posted at a strategic place for people to sign up.

SG Coordinator should copy and distribute Prayer: Connecting with Our Father materials (including the Supply List) to Hosts. You can send them their weekly copies via email (PDF) or a print copy through the mail or in person.

Suggestion: Distribute Facilitator Guide and Participant Guide materials for all 6 weeks at one time.

To Do List



- _____ Continue to announce the Study
- _____ Assist SG Coordinator with Host Home list
- _____ Begin preparation for the Study as a Host

Preparation

Calendar						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

One Week Prior to Study

Sunday

Announce that Host Home lists are now available. (Hosts will also be recruiting for their groups.) Encourage people to sign up with a Host. Be sure that the list of Host Homes (name, address, phone, email, day and time of meeting) are in the bulletin and/or a prominent place.

Remind the congregation to contact their Host Home so that the Hosts can prepare for them. Group size is limited, so please **RSVP ASAP**.

What to Do this Week:

SG Coordinator should contact Hosts to follow-up:

- Are there any questions?
- Do you need assistance with the materials?
- How many people are signed up?

SG Coordinator may need to gauge group numbers and help recruit accordingly.

To Do List



- _____ Continue to announce the Study
Remember: If the Sr. Pastor and the SG Coordinator are excited, then the members will want to be a part.
- _____ Assist SG Coordinator with any last details
- _____ Continue preparation for the Study as a Host

Implementation

Week One

Calendar						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Kickoff Sunday

Announce that it is not too late to sign up for the study! Refer them to the list of Host Homes. Remind the congregation to contact their Host Home so that the Hosts can prepare for them. Group size is limited, so please **RSVP ASAP**.

Groups will meet this week to study Prayer With a Purpose.

Implementation

Calendar						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Week Two

Sunday

Groups will meet this week to study Hallowed be Your Name.

Implementation

Calendar						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Week Three

Sunday

Groups will meet this week to study Daily Bread.

Implementation

Week Four

Calendar						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday

Groups will meet this week to study Your Kingdom Come.

Implementation

Calendar						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Week Five

Sunday

Groups will meet this week to study Forgive Us Our Debts.

Implementation

Calendar						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Week Six

Sunday

Groups will meet this week to study Deliver Us From Evil.

Plan a **Debriefing Meeting** with Host Home leaders for next Sunday morning during a strategic time. Surveys will be completed by participants during the Deliver Us From Evil module. Leaders should bring the survey results to this meeting. Announce that meeting and put it in the bulletin.

Congratulate Hosts on a job well done.

Optional: Encourage the groups to meet one more time during the next week as a celebration and wrap-up of the Study. Groups that enjoyed the group activities might have a “board game night.” Groups could go out to eat if sharing meals was an important part of the group dynamic. Celebrate the relationships that were formed/strengthened during this time together.

To Do List



- _____ Announce Debriefing Meeting
- _____ Make arrangements for Meeting
- _____ Make contact with Hosts and suggest optional Celebration meeting
- _____ Optional: Prepare Celebration message

Follow-Up

Week Seven

Calendar						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday

Optional: Groups meet this week for a Celebration time.

Conduct a **Debriefing Meeting** with Host Home leaders. Discuss the participants' survey results. Survey the leaders by asking the questions on the following page.

Debriefing Survey

What is the greatest learning you have taken away from the Study?

What was the most fun?

What was the greatest benefit to you personally?

What practical changes have you made in your life as a result of this Study?

What ideas do you have for strengthening this course?

Are you interested in taking the next steps with Groups Ablaze?

Would you be willing to lead a small group focused on outreach?

What to Do this Week:

Meet with SG Coordinator for a final report on attendance (number of groups, and the total number of participants). Please share these totals, along with the debriefing survey results, with your district office as well as Dwight Marable at Missions International (Dwight@missions.com). Also, share what the impact of the Prayer series was on the church including a new or renewed passion for outreach, perhaps even an increased number of visitors, strengthened relationships, etc.

BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM!

Prayer With a Purpose



*10
minutes*

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: You'll need to get some play dough or clay ahead of time for this activity. It is important that everyone have an opportunity to work a little art magic as the prayer series gets started. The illustration will be referred to throughout the whole series!

Round #1: Pass out a generous amount of play dough or clay to each person in the group. Ask each person to create a sculpture of some kind of animal. Give them a couple of minutes to create their art work and then ask each person to hold their masterpiece up for everyone to admire!

Round #2: After the animal creations ask them to take the same piece of play dough or clay and to reshape it with this instruction: "Form a shape of some kind that depicts what your own personal experience of prayer has been like." Expect some resistance and some groans when you ask them to create this second shape. Hang in there! What people come up with here is very important. Let them struggle a little bit...the struggle is OK but will yield some very profound sharing. After everyone has had time to create something...ask for a few volunteers to share what they came up with and why. If you feel like everyone in the group can handle it, ask everyone to share about their creation.

15-20
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Transition the group to the article entitled "Praying with a purpose." Ask everyone to read slowly and to highlight key ideas. After everyone has read, ask people to respond to the reading in pairs or triads by going through the discussion questions at the end of the article. Then bring the whole group back together and ask people to share their responses to the discussion questions. You might want to capture the insights on a flipchart or white board.

Praying with a Purpose

"Give me one hundred men and women who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth. God does nothing but in answer to prayer." Charles Wesley

"As I travel, I have observed a pattern, a strange historical phenomenon of God 'moving' geographically from the Middle East, to Europe to North America to the developing world. My theory is this: God goes where he is wanted." Philip Yancey

One of the most challenging aspects of the Christian life is found in prayer. Survey the average church-goer around the nation and you will discover that most people agree that prayer is important but spend very little time praying during any given week. Why is that? Why is prayer so difficult for some many? Why do so many feel guilty about the time that they are spending in prayer? For most, there is at least one or more reasons, which can be identified as a block of some sort. Consider the six

“prayer blocks” below and see if you can find your own experience in any one of them.

Prayer Blocks

Block #1: Prayer is boring

A number of Christians are bored to tears with prayer. When we are bored with anything in life, we generally tend to avoid it. Prayer for many is dry as chalk dust or can be likened to eating a slice of toast with nothing on it. It all seems like a trivial ritual that has very little meaning or sense of satisfaction attached to it.

Block #2: My mind wanders

Ever start to pray about something only to find your mind hopelessly wandering in a million different directions? Many are frustrated by prayer because they find that it is incredibly difficult to get their minds to stay focused.

Block #3: I feel awkward

A large number of Christians have never prayed aloud before. The idea of hearing themselves talk out loud to God generates feelings of awkwardness. Most of us don't like to feel stupid or inadequate, so for many it's safer to stay silent rather than stepping out of our comfort zone.

Block #4: Prayer doesn't make a difference

Most of us would never admit to saying something this outrageous. But many Christians behave like prayer doesn't make a difference. Why bother engaging in an activity that is meaningless and pointless?

Block #5: I don't have the time

In our rush-rush culture many are living time-poor lifestyles. Prayer sounds nice, but frankly, where would I find the time to pray? I'm racing from sun up to sun down and I have no margin in my life. Many have become too busy to pray.

Block #6: I don't know how to pray

Reciting a creed or The Lord's Prayer are meaningful and authentic expressions of faith for many. However, for many Christians, praying to God in their own words is a real challenge. What do I say, what words do I use, and what should I pray about are common concerns for people that don't know how to pray.

So how about you? Which prayer block or blocks do you wrestle with? There could be one major stumbling block or there could be a combination of sticking points for you. You are not alone. Your frustration and disillusionment with prayer is shared by many. However, this series on prayer is an invitation for you to "become more than you are" when it comes to praying. It's an invitation to overcome whatever is hindering you from experiencing greater satisfaction in prayer. God wants times of prayer to be rich for His children and He wants to teach you how to pray.

Praying the Lord's Prayer

Through the ages, Christians have returned again and again to the Lord's prayer which Jesus outlined in Matthew 6:9-13

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

A shortened version of the Lord's Prayer is also found in Luke 11:2-4. However, in Luke 11:1 a very important interaction takes place that needs to be highlighted right up front. A nameless disciple has been watching Jesus for some time. We don't know exactly how long he has observed Jesus' life but we do know that He is impressed by His prayer life. And he asked Jesus a very profound question when he says, "Lord, would you teach us to pray?" There is something commendable in his question. It demonstrates an eagerness and a profound sense of openness. He is a man who wants to grow and he wants to know how to pray more meaningfully. Something about the way that Jesus prays has caught his attention. Who better to learn from regarding prayer than the Lord Himself? As you start the prayer series will you join hands with this man by allowing the Lord to teach you more about prayer? All you need as we get started is a willingness and an openness to learn. The Lord will meet you the rest of the way.

"Our Father who art in heaven"

Jesus instructs us to start off our prayer by addressing God as "our Father." Consider the following story from one man's life:

A few years ago I was huddled with a group of men in a mountain cabin for a planning and goal setting retreat. At the beginning of the meeting the leader asked each of the nine men gathered to share about what we had been learning about being dads. It was a most unusual question for a group of men to talk with one another about. However, as each man took his turn to discuss what he had been learning about being a father, tears welled up in their eyes. All nine men, began to cry when they talked about their kids. Some were going through very challenging seasons of parenting while others were enjoying times of pure delight. But one thing was apparent to all of us...these men loved their children. The depth of emotion that was displayed was quite extraordinary and it left a deep imprint upon my mind and heart. For a few brief moments I had a glimpse of what how God must feel about His children.

When we start off a time of prayer this is the kind of picture God wants us to have of Him. Jesus consistently called out to God as Abba or father which is a term of great emotion and intimacy. Abba is not found an Old Testament term for God but is a New Testament understanding of our fresh and open relationship with God.

Prayer is then about connecting with our heavenly Dad. It's a way for us to relate, to be open, and to be close. He wants us to approach Him, to be honest with Him, to share with Him, to open up to Him, and to be authentic with Him. He wants us to appreciate and to understand how high and deep and wide His love is for us. He is a Father who cries when He thinks about you.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the prayer blocks has been your experience?
2. What principles from the article are you most challenged by and why?
3. What kinds of words would you use to describe your experience of prayer?

15
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: This will be an easy assignment for some and a challenging one for others. Give everyone 10-15 minutes by themselves to write a letter to God with an emphasis on thinking about Him as a Father. Encourage people to move around and find a private spot. Let them know that they will not have to share their letter with anyone if they don't want to. Once the writing time has been completed bring everyone back together and ask a couple of questions:

1. What was the writing experience like for you?
2. Would anyone be willing to share what they have written with the group? (be prepared to read your own if no one volunteers...it can be very helpful for the group to hear what others have written)

A Letter to Dad

Instructions: Take 10-15 minutes on your own to write a letter to God with the perspective that He is your Dad. This is a letter to Dad. What's on your mind these days? What kinds of things are you worried about?

5
minutes

Homework:

Facilitator Instructions: Close out the session by highlighting the homework assignment.

Homework assignment: This week make it your goal to have at least three different prayer times by using the “Letter to Dad” framework. If you are comfortable simply talking out loud to God about your concerns then simply “talk to Dad” using the “Letter to Dad” framework. Remember... the only way we learn to pray is to pray. It’s like anything in life.

Prayer With a Purpose

Learning Activity: Play dough Creations

Learning Activity:

Praying with a Purpose

“Give me one hundred men and women who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth. God does nothing but in answer to prayer.” Charles Wesley

“As I travel, I have observed a pattern, a strange historical phenomenon of God ‘moving’ geographically from the Middle East, to Europe to North America to the developing world. My theory is this: God goes where he is wanted.” Philip Yancey

One of the most challenging aspects of the Christian life is found in prayer. Survey the average church-goer around the nation and you will discover that most people agree that prayer is important but spend very little time praying during any given week. Why is that? Why is prayer so difficult for some many? Why do so many feel guilty about the time that they are spending in prayer? For most, there is at least one or more reasons, which can be identified as a block of some sort. Consider the six “prayer blocks” below and see if you can find your own experience in any one of them.

Prayer Blocks

Block #1: Prayer is boring

A number of Christians are bored to tears with prayer. When we are bored with anything in life, we generally tend to avoid it. Prayer for many is dry as chalk dust or can be likened to eating a slice of toast with nothing on it. It all seems like a trivial ritual that has very little meaning or sense of satisfaction attached to it.

Block #2: My mind wanders

Ever start to pray about something only to find your mind hopelessly wandering in a million different directions? Many are frustrated by prayer because they find that it is incredibly difficult to get their minds to stay focused.

Block #3: I feel awkward

A large number of Christians have never prayed aloud before. The idea of hearing themselves talk out loud to God generates feelings of awkwardness. Most of us don't like to feel stupid or inadequate, so for many it's safer to stay silent rather than stepping out of our comfort zone.

Block #4: Prayer doesn't make a difference

Most of us would never admit to saying something this outrageous. But many Christians behave like prayer doesn't make a difference. Why bother engaging in an activity that is meaningless and pointless?

Block #5: I don't have the time

In our rush-rush culture many are living time-poor lifestyles. Prayer sounds nice, but frankly, where would I find the time to pray? I'm racing from sun up to sun down and I have no margin in my life. Many have become too busy to pray.

Block #6: I don't know how to pray

Reciting a creed or The Lord's Prayer are meaningful and authentic expressions of faith for many. However, for many Christians, praying to God in their own words is a real challenge. What do I say, what words do I use, and what should I pray about are common concerns for people that don't know how to pray.

So how about you? Which prayer block or blocks do you wrestle with? There could be one major stumbling block or there could be a combination of sticking points for you. You are not alone. Your frustration and disillusionment with prayer is shared by many. However, this series on prayer is an invitation for you to "become more than you are" when it comes to praying. It's an invitation to overcome whatever is hindering you from experiencing greater satisfaction in prayer. God wants times of prayer to be rich for His children and He wants to teach you how to pray.

Praying the Lord's Prayer

Through the ages, Christians have returned again and again to the Lord's prayer which Jesus outlined in Matthew 6:9-13

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

A shortened version of the Lord's Prayer is also found in Luke 11:2-4. However, in Luke 11:1 a very important interaction takes place that needs to be highlighted right up front. A nameless disciple has been watching Jesus for some time. We don't know exactly how long he has observed Jesus' life but we do know that He is impressed by His prayer life. And he asked Jesus a very profound question when he says, "Lord, would you teach us to pray?" There is something commendable in his question. It demonstrates an eagerness and a profound sense of openness. He is a man who wants to grow and he wants to know how to pray more meaningfully. Something about the way that Jesus prays has caught his attention. Who better to learn from regarding prayer than the Lord Himself? As you start the prayer series will you join hands with this man by allowing the Lord to teach you more about prayer? All you need as we get started is a willingness and an openness to learn. The Lord will meet you the rest of the way.

“Our Father who art in heaven”

Jesus instructs us to start off our prayer by addressing God as “our Father.” Consider the following story from one man’s life:

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Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the prayer blocks has been your experience?
2. What principles from the article are you most challenged by and why?
3. What kinds of words would you use to describe your experience of prayer?

Learning Activity:

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the writing experience like for you?
2. Would anyone be willing to share what they have written with the group?

A Letter to Dad

Instructions: Take 10-15 minutes on your own to write a letter to God with the perspective that He is your Dad. This is a letter to Dad. What's on your mind these days? What kinds of things are you worried about?

What are you excited about or thankful for? In what ways are you disappointed or discouraged? How do you feel about your relationship with Him lately? Is it close or distant? Tell Him about how you feel?

Simply use this as a time to talk to God honestly about what's going on in your world.

Hallowed be Your Name



10
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: You will need to get some play dough or clay ahead of time for this activity. It is important that everyone have an opportunity to work a little art magic as the prayer series gets started. The use of play dough or clay will be referred to throughout the whole series!

Round # 1: For this activity, instruct the group that they have a few minutes to create something with play dough that represents what they appreciate about God. For example, “What do you appreciate about God? What words come to mind? Create something that comes from those responses.”

Round # 2: Take some time to go around the room and ask each person to briefly share their artwork. Ask folks to explain to the group what they created and why they created it.

15-20
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Before you move into the article below, ask the group how they did with the homework from the last session. Ask for a few volunteers to share what the experience was like for them. (Also, be ready to share your own experience for the benefit of the group). Transition the group to the article entitled “Hallowed be your name.” Ask everyone to read slowly and highlight key ideas. After everyone has finished reading, create groups of two or three people. Ask each group to respond to the reading and answer the discussion questions at the end of the article. Then bring the whole group back together and ask people to share their responses to the discussion questions. You may want to capture the insights on a flipchart or white board.

Hallowed be Your Name

In the previous module, we explored the implications of addressing God as our Father. The Lord, He wants us to experience all of the fullness of what it means for Him to be our Father. He desires closeness and authenticity with each of His children. Through the ages, Christians have returned again and again to the Lord’s Prayer which Jesus outlined in Matthew 6:9-13:

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.

Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

One of the biblical word pictures that describe our relationship with God in a different manner is taken from the world of pottery. God is pictured as the potter and we are depicted as the clay – His work of art. As we consider the Lord's Prayer in greater detail, multiple images taken from the realm of the potter's wheel will be used to stimulate our thinking about prayer.

The phrase, "Hallowed be Your Name" is not the kind of wording that we are accustomed to hearing in today's world. When Jesus used the word "hallowed" what He was communicating is that when we address God in this way we are saying, "May Your person, Your identity, Your character and Your very reputation be honored. May You be honored, revered, and respected because of who You are. May Your reputation, name, person, and character be kept untarnished, uncontaminated, unsullied. May nothing be done to debase or defame Your record" (from *A Layman Looks at the Lord's Prayer*, by Phillip Keller).

As we consider the image of God as the master potter, we are encouraged to ponder His reputation. He is to be exalted and appreciated for His works of art. He creates outstanding pieces of sculpture! There is none like Him in all the world...never before in history nor in ages to come.

When we address God in this way it helps us keep proper perspective. When we pause to linger over the reality that God's name is hallowed, it reminds us that He is the potter and we are the clay. So often we get that mixed up in our minds. In fact, the culture we live in celebrates the notion that we are in control of our destiny. We can and should shape our futures. Our lives are what we make of them. However, if we are not careful, we get caught up in the lie of our day that suggests that we are both the potter and the clay. This is a subtle, yet vicious distortion of the grand Heavenly scheme that the Lord has constructed. When we take the time to pray "hallowed be thy name," we are admitting that God truly is the one in control and that He is the one that shapes our lives. He is the one who knows the number of hairs on our head. He is the one who numbers our days.

With this in mind, here are a few suggestions for expanding and lingering on this section of the prayer.

- Think about friends who need the love of God in their lives. You can pray that God will become more and more real to them this week. Ask God to reveal Himself as the Master Potter to those that you pray for. Pray that the Holy Spirit would make it evident to them that there truly is a God in Heaven who is shaping their lives.
- Use the Psalms as a way to praise God. Pick a psalm each day as a way to recalibrate your heart and your mind about who God really is.
- Pick different letters of the alphabet and spend time thanking God by thinking of words that begin with a certain letter. For example, for the letter “M” you could thank God that He is mighty, majestic, and merciful. For the letter “F” you could appreciate that God is faithful, forgiving, and our Father. Be creative and allow God to bring words to mind that you can pray back to Him.
- Play a few songs from a music CD that has words that focus on God’s character and reputation. Music has a wonderful way of helping our hearts and minds focus on the majesty of our Lord.

Discussion Questions:

1. What kinds of things do you most appreciate about God?
2. What principles from the article are you most challenged by and why?

15–20
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Divide the group into pairs for this activity. Assign each pair five Psalms for the activity. Ask each pair to come up with a list of attributes about God that are found in the various Psalms that they will be looking up. Ask the group, “What do the Psalms affirm about God, His character, and His work in our lives?”

After approximately 10 minutes, bring the entire group back together and spend some time praising God together in prayer using the lists that they generated from the Psalms study. Encourage people to keep their prayer short so that a number of people can pray. Also, encourage people to pray more than one time. In other words, there could be a few rounds of prayer

Ask people to simply pray back to God a simple phrase like:

- “Father, I want to thank you for...”
- “Father, I appreciate that you are...”

Encourage people to simply pray a portion of a Psalm back to God. For example, “Father, I want to thank you that you are my shepherd and I shall not want (Psalm 23).”

5
minutes

Homework:

Facilitator Instructions: Close out the session by highlighting the homework assignment

Homework Assignment: This week make it your goal to have at least three different prayer times by using the “Letter to Dad” framework and adding a section where you are focusing on an idea from “hallowed be Your name.” If you are comfortable simply talking out loud to God about your concerns and praise then simply “talk to Dad.” Remember...the only way we learn to pray is to pray. It is like anything in life.

Hallowed be Your Name

Learning Activity: Play Dough Creations

Learning Activity:

Hallowed be Your Name

In the previous module, we explored the implications of addressing God as our Father. The Lord, He wants us to experience all of the fullness of what it means for Him to be our Father. He desires closeness and authenticity with each of His children. Through the ages, Christians have returned again and again to the Lord's Prayer which Jesus outlined in Matthew 6:9-13:

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- Play a few songs from a music CD that has words that focus on God's character and reputation. Music has a wonderful way of helping our hearts and minds focus on the majesty of our Lord.

Discussion Questions:

1. What kinds of things do you most appreciate about God?
2. What principles from the article are you most challenged by and why?

Learning Activity: Prayer Blitz

Homework:

Homework Assignment: This week make it your goal to have at least three different prayer times by using the "Letter to Dad" framework and adding a section where you are focusing on an idea from "hallowed be Your name." If you are comfortable simply talking out loud to God about your concerns and praise then simply "talk to Dad." Remember...the only way we learn to pray is to pray. It is like anything in life.

Daily Bread



10-15
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Divide the group into two teams for this game. This is a brainstorming blitz focusing on this task: Name as many different kinds of needs God met in people's lives in the Bible. Groups may use people, circumstances, and events from both the Old and New Testament to get them thinking about needs God met. The team with the longest list of "needs that were met by God" wins! Groups will have five minutes to compile their list.

A few examples to get the groups started....

Adam was **alone** so God gave him Eve

God met Sarah's need for a **son** by giving her Isaac

The Red Sea provided a **way of escape** for Israel

Debrief: Bring the two teams together and see who has the longest list. A candy prize for the winning team is always a great idea. Then, compare lists by asking each team to share the list they came up with. If you have a whiteboard or flipchart paper, list the various "needs that were met" as they are shared.

Key insight: After the debrief share with the group that the focus of today's session is on the part of the Lord's Prayer that talks about "daily bread." When we pray about daily bread, in part, we are asking God to meet our daily needs...the kind of needs that were met in people's lives in both the Old and New Testament.

10-15
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Before you move into the article below, ask the group how they did with the homework from the last session on prayerwalking. Ask for a few volunteers to share what the experience was like for them (also, be ready to share your own experience for the benefit of the group).

Transition the group to the article entitled "Daily Bread." Ask everyone to read slowly and to highlight key ideas. After everyone has read, ask people to respond to the reading in groups of two and three by going through the discussion questions at the end of the article. Then bring the whole group back together and ask people to share their responses to the discussion questions. You might want to capture the insights on a flipchart or white board.

Daily Bread

In the previous modules, we have explored the implications of addressing God as our Father and praising Him by focusing on the phrase “hallowed be thy name.” The Lord wants us to experience all of the fullness of what it means for Him to be our Father. He desires closeness and authenticity with each of His children. The third module injected the idea of prayer walking as a creative way to pray about God’s kingdom and will be established in our lives and communities. In this section, we will explore the portion of the Lord’s Prayer that centers on the phrase “our daily bread” from Matthew 6:9-13:

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.

Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

For a few weeks we have been talking about clay and the potter’s wheel image. Clay needs two things to become something useful – pressure and water. The skilled hands of the potter carve and mold clay into the intended image that the artist has in mind. And yet, throughout the shaping process on the potter’s wheel, generous amounts of water are applied to the clay to keep it malleable.

So it is with our lives. We have needs and our heavenly Father is keenly aware of them. Yet, we are encouraged by Jesus in the Lord's Prayer to make our request known to God. And so, it is fitting, that we ask God to meet our most pressing daily needs. Daily bread can take on a broader meaning as we consider going to God with a variety of needs. When we move to this part of the prayer, it is important that we remember Jesus is encouraging us to ask God to meet our needs, not simply our wants. God is not to be pictured as our heavenly buddy, or the great vending machine in the sky. But rather, He is a loving Father who encourages us to ask.

A posture of asking keeps us humble and dependent. It is a sure-fire way to help us remember that we are the clay; we are the ones that need the hands of the potter to lovingly shape us and apply water to our souls to keep us malleable. What then are we to ask for? Consider these "daily bread" areas of your life:

Friends who need God: Remember your friends who need a relationship with God. As you pray for them by name on a regular basis pray that the truths of the Lord's Prayer would become real to them. Pray that they will discover that they have a Heavenly Father that they can take their needs to.

Wisdom: We need wisdom as we navigate through our day. There may be a major decision that you are faced with or a spur of the moment circumstance that comes out of nowhere.

Courage: It takes boldness to reach out in a broken world. Some times it is not convenient or you may be apprehensive. Join hands with the Apostle Paul who asked others to pray that he would have the courage to be a witness for Christ in his spheres of influence. A part of your daily bread might be your need for courage with your friends and contacts that need God.

Love: No greater love has a man than to lay down his life for his friends. Today, your need might be for a greater demonstration of love toward another. Or perhaps you do not feel very loved right now. Tell your heavenly Father exactly how you feel and ask Him to meet your longing.

Strength: Sickness and injury is a part of the human experience. Stress and the pressures of life can take a toll on any one of us. There are times when we need a fresh sense of God's resurrection power pulsating through our veins.

Resources: Is it a bill? A debt? A job? Where are you feeling the pressure financially right now? Go to God with that need and ask Him to provide you with what you need to make it through “this day.”

Relationships: God wants us to go to Him with the significant issues that have surfaced in your key relationships. Is there a broken or fractured relationship that needs mending? Are you hiding anger or bitterness over something in your relational world? Take those needs to the Lord in prayer.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you as you read the article?
2. What principles from the article are you most challenged by and why?
3. What questions or reservations do you have about praying for daily bread in this way?

15
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: This is an individual activity. Encourage people to individually write out a Daily Bread Prayer to God. Ask them to use the categories that were mentioned in the article to frame their writing. They are simply asking God to provide “daily bread” for themselves and others by using those categories. This will not be something that they have to show other people. It is between them and God.

Instructions: Your assignment is to write out a “Daily Bread” prayer to God. Use the categories that were mentioned in the article to frame your writing. You are simply asking God to provide “daily bread” for yourself and others by using those categories. Use this as a time to be real and honest with God.

5-10
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Hopefully by now the group is becoming a little more comfortable with the idea of praying aloud. This is another opportunity for people to pray with others about their needs. Ask people to pray briefly so that several can enter into the time of prayer. Ask the group to focus on the kinds of things they wrote down which they are comfortable praying about in front of others. For example:

Father, I want to ask for wisdom about...

Father, I want to ask that you would bring complete healing for...

Father, I ask that you give me courage to...

Father, in this relationship, help me to...

5
minutes

Homework:

Facilitator Instructions: Close out the session by highlighting the homework assignment and asking people to work with someone else in the group as a partner for the homework.

Homework Assignment: This week, make it your goal to have two prayer times that focus on “daily bread” requests. If you are more comfortable writing your prayers, then use the “Daily Bread” prayer exercise as your template your time with God. Also, feel free to incorporate other aspects of the Lord’s Prayer that you have learned about in this series.

Daily Bread

Learning Activity: Name That Need

A few examples....

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God met Sarah's need for a **son** by giving her Isaac

The Red Sea provided a **way of escape** for Israel

Learning Activity:

Daily Bread

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Love: No greater love has a man than to lay down his life for his friends. Today, your need might be for a greater demonstration of love toward another. Or perhaps you do not feel very loved right now. Tell your heavenly Father exactly how you feel and ask Him to meet your longing.

Strength: Sickness and injury is a part of the human experience. Stress and the pressures of life can take a toll on any one of us. There are times when we need a fresh sense of God's resurrection power pulsating through our veins.

Resources: Is it a bill? A debt? A job? Where are you feeling the pressure financially right now? Go to God with that need and ask Him to provide you with what you need to make it through "this day."

Relationships: God wants us to go to Him with the significant issues that have surfaced in your key relationships. Is there a broken or fractured relationship that needs mending? Are you hiding anger or bitterness over something in your relational world? Take those needs to the Lord in prayer.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you as you read the article?
2. What principles from the article are you most challenged by and why?
3. What questions or reservations do you have about praying for daily bread in this way?

Learning Activity:

Instructions: Your assignment is to write out a “Daily Bread” prayer to God. Use the categories that were mentioned in the article to frame your writing. You are simply asking God to provide “daily bread” for yourself and others by using those categories. Use this as a time to be real and honest with God.

Learning Activity:

Father, I want to ask for wisdom about...

Father, I want to ask that you would bring complete healing for...

Father, I ask that you give me courage to...

Father, in this relationship, help me to...

Homework:

Homework Assignment: This week, make it your goal to have two prayer times that focus on “daily bread” requests. If you are more comfortable writing your prayers, then use the “Daily Bread” prayer exercise as your template your time with God. Also, feel free to incorporate other aspects of the Lord’s Prayer that you have learned about in this series.

Your Kingdom Come



15
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: This is an activity for individuals or pairs. Ask everyone to take a walk outside for 10 minutes with the express purpose of thinking about the needs, hurts, and issues that are present in the lives of the people, homes, shops, schools, etc. that they will pass by while walking. This is simply a time to walk and ponder what might be going on in the lives of people in the immediate community. Ask people to simply use their imaginations and their eyes as they walk.

The key issue to focus on is: "What are the needs, hurts, and issues in this community?"

This activity is best done individually, but if it makes sense for two people to go out together (for safety purposes), simply ask them to resist the temptation to talk while they are walking. Before sending individuals outside, be sure to set a given time when they should return back to the room.

Once everyone is gathered back in the room, ask people to share about the experience by responding to the following two questions:

Discussion Questions:

1. What were your thoughts and feelings as you walked in the community?
2. What needs, hurts, and issues might be present in this community?

Key insight: Share with the group that the focus of today's session is the part of the Lord's Prayer that talks about "His Kingdom Come." When we pray for His Kingdom to come, we are asking that His will and rule will be established in our lives and in the lives of the community

15-20
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Before you move into the article below, ask the group how they did with the homework from the last session. Ask for a few volunteers to share what the experience was like for them (also, be ready to share your own experience for the benefit of the group).

Transition the group to the article entitled, "Hallowed be Your name." Ask everyone to read slowly and highlight key ideas. After everyone has finished reading, ask people to respond to the reading in small groups of two or three by going through the discussion questions at the end of the article. Then bring the whole group back together and ask people to share their responses to the discussion questions. You might want to capture the insights on a flipchart or white board.

“Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done”

In the previous modules, we have explored the implications of addressing God as our Father and praising Him by focusing on the phrase “Hallowed be Thy name.” The Lord wants us to experience all of the fullness of what it means for Him to be our Father. He desires closeness and authenticity with each of His children. Through the ages, Christians have returned again and again to the Lord’s Prayer which Jesus outlined in Matthew 6:9-13:

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.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

In the last section, the image of the potter’s wheel was introduced. When we pray, “hallowed be Your name” we are reminding ourselves that God is the master potter and we are the clay He is shaping. Let’s consider the potter’s wheel for a moment. Before an individual can work with a piece of clay it must be carefully and painstakingly placed in the center of the potter’s wheel. If the clay is off-center, the potter will have an extremely difficult time shaping a cup, jar, or dish.

And so it is with our lives, our churches, and our communities. Life is best lived in the center of the potter’s wheel. The center of the wheel represents God’s best – His will for our lives. Blessed is the man or woman who strives to live in the center of God’s will. When we pray that God’s kingdom would come and this His will would be done we are acknowledging our desire to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

PrayerWalking

In hundreds of cities across the globe, ordinary believers are prayerwalking through the streets of their communities. They pray while walking, with eyes open for the spiritual awakening God is bringing. In other words, Christians are taking their prayers into the communities in which they live. This has become a practical method for praying for God's kingdom to come and for His will to be done. For many this might be a new or novel idea, praying while walking, but rest assured it can be an enjoyable and uplifting experience. Here's what one Christian has to say about prayerwalking:

One evening my wife and I were strolling through our neighborhood. As we passed different homes we simply asked God to make Himself known in each of the homes we passed. We were asking God to draw our neighbors to Himself. When we got to one home, I had a strange idea pop into my head. You see, I knew that this neighbor was in the midst of bitter lawsuit regarding thousands of dollars. Our neighbor had been clearly wronged by a contractor and the next day there was going to be a major show-down in a courtroom. So with a little apprehension we walked up to his house and knocked on the door. After exchanging brief pleasantries, I simply blurted out, "Tony, I know that tomorrow is a big day for you in court and I was wondering if we could pray for you just a minute." He was visibly moved that we would care enough to even suggest the idea. I didn't pray long but I did ask God for justice and for a clear sense that our neighbor would be able to recover his money.

Later in the week Tony stopped by on his own initiative to report the happy news...the judge had ruled in his favor! The point I wish to make is a simple one...the thought to pray for my neighbor happened while I was passing his home on a prayerwalk. There was something about being out in the street that created the opening in my mind and heart.

There is no set pattern or proven formula for prayerwalking. Prayerwalkers have set out with every imaginable style. There is nothing magical about praying while walking. God's Spirit is simply helping us to pray in the midst of the very settings in which we expect Him to answer our prayers. We instinctively draw near to those for whom we pray. Getting up close to the community focuses our prayer. We sharpen our prayers by concentrating on specific homes and families. We enlarge our praying as well, crying out for entire communities to know God's healing presence.

Prayerwalks give us a simple way to continually fill the streets with prayer. Many are praying city-size prayers while ranging throughout their towns with disciplined regularity in small bands of two or three. Quiet

triumphs often follow as God changes the city, day by day, and house by house.

Creative things to Pray during a Prayerwalk:

1. Attempt to keep every prayer pertinent to the specific community you pass through. As you do, you will find prayers naturally progress to the nation and to the world.
2. Use a theme passage of Scripture. Unless God guides you to use another, try 1 Timothy 2:1-8. Many have found it to be a useful launching point for prayerwalking. Verse 8 speaks of the important dimension to prayer connected with God's desire that all people be saved. "I want the men in every place to pray." Copy this and other passages in a format easy to read aloud several times during your walk. Each of the following prayer points emerges from this passage.
3. Concerning Christ: Proclaim Him afresh to be the one Mediator and the ransom for all. Name Him Lord of the neighborhood and of the lives you see.
4. Concerning Leaders: Pray for people responsible in any position of authority – for teachers, police, administrators, and parents.
5. Concerning Peace: Cry out for the godliness and holiness of God's people to increase into substantial peace. Pray for new churches to be established.
6. Concerning Truth: Declare openly the bedrock reality that there is one God. Celebrate the faithful revelation of His truth to all peoples through ordinary people (1 Tim. 2:8). Pray that the eyes of minds would cease to be blinded by Satan so that they could come to knowledge of the truth.
7. Concerning the Blessing of God: Thanksgivings are to be made on behalf of all people. Give God the explicit thanks He deserves for the goodness He constantly bestows on the homes you pass by. Ask to see the city with His eyes, that you might sense what is good and pleasing in His sight as well as what things grieve Him deeply. Ask God to bring forth an enduring spiritual awakening.
8. Concerning the Church: Ask for healing in relationships, that there be no wrath or dissension among God's people. Ask that God would make His people, men and women alike, expressive in worship with the

substance of radiant, relational holiness. Ask that our worship would be adorned with the confirming power of saints doing good works in our communities.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you as you read the article?
2. What principles from the article are you most challenged by and why?
3. What questions or reservations do you have about praying while you walk in your community?

15-20
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Pair people together to initially work through 1 Timothy 2:1-8. Have each group read the passage and discuss it together with their partner. After 10 minutes, bring everyone back together to discuss the questions as a whole.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Paul uses the phrase “I urge” in 2:1?
2. What are some of the differences between requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving?
3. What is the connection Paul is making between praying for “those in authority” and the kind of lives we experience in our communities?
4. How does verse 4 relate to what Paul has already talked about in 2:1-3?
5. What does Paul seem to be concerned about in 2:8?
6. What kinds of topics or requests does this passage indicate we are urged to pray about when it comes to others and our community

5
minutes

Homework:

Facilitator Instructions: Close out the session by highlighting the homework assignment and asking people to link up with someone else in the group as a partner for the homework.

Homework Assignment: This week make it your goal to take at least one prayerwalk in your neighborhood or community with an accountability partner. The prayerwalk can be a time of silently praying or a time to pray out loud – it is your choice. Use the information in the article on prayer walking as your guide for ideas to incorporate into your prayer walk.

Your Kingdom Come

Learning Activity:

Discussion Questions:

1. What were your thoughts and feelings as you walked in the community?
2. What needs, hurts, and issues might be present in this community?

Learning Activity:

“Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done”

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Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you as you read the article?
2. What principles from the article are you most challenged by and why?
3. What questions or reservations do you have about praying while you walk in your community?

Learning Activity:

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Paul uses the phrase "I urge" in 2:1?
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6. What kinds of topics or requests does this passage indicate we are urged to pray about when it comes to others and our community?

Homework:

Homework Assignment: This week make it your goal to take at least one prayerwalk in your neighborhood or community with an accountability partner. The prayerwalk can be a time of silently praying or a time to pray out loud – it is your choice. Use the information in the article on prayer walking as your guide for ideas to incorporate into your prayer walk.

Forgive Us Our Debts



10-15
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Pair people up in groups of two and three for this sharing exercise. Ask people to share about a time that they made a big mistake. As they share their mistakes, ask them to also talk about the lessons that they learned from the experience.

After the sharing, bring the group back together to debrief the stories with the following questions. First, ask if anyone would be willing to share their story with the whole group. Then ask the group:

Discussion Questions:

1. What were some of the lessons you learned from your mistake?
2. What are some ways that God uses mistakes to grow us?

Key insight: After the debrief share with the group that the focus of today's session is on the portion of the Lord's Prayer that talks about "forgiveness of sin." When we pray about forgiveness, in part, we are asking God to cleanse us from mistakes, poor choices, wrongful attitudes, and unhealthy behaviors.

10-15
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Before you move into the article below, ask the group how they did with the homework from the last session on "Daily Bread" praying. Ask for a few volunteers to share what the experience was like for them (also, be ready to share your own experience for the benefit of the group).

Transition the group to the article entitled "Forgive Us Our Debts." Ask everyone to read slowly and to highlight key ideas. After everyone has read, ask people to respond to the reading in pairs or triads by going through the discussion questions at the end of the article. Then bring the whole group back together and ask people to share their responses to the discussion questions. You might want to capture the insights on a flipchart or white board.

"Forgive us our debts"

In the previous modules, we have explored a number of fresh and creative ways to pray through the Lord's Prayer. It's not meant to be a trite, formulaic kind of prayer. Rather, it is a model or template that we can use to have extended times of prayer before our heavenly Father. God wants us to experience all of the fullness of what it means for Him to be our Father. He desires closeness and authenticity with each of His children. Secondly, we focused on unique ways that we can declare "hallowed be Your name" as we consider the character and reputation of God. The third module injected the idea of prayerwalking as a creative way to pray about God's kingdom and will to be established in our lives and communities. And from the last meeting and for homework you were encouraged to go to God with "Daily Bread" needs in your life.

In this section, we will explore the portion of the Lord's Prayer that centers on the phrase "forgive us our debts" from Matthew 6:9-13:

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.

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

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

In his book, *A Layman Looks at the Lord's Prayer*, Phillip Keller recounts a personal story involving a potter in the back streets of Pakistan. Keller had asked the elderly man if he could watch him work his craft on a potter's wheel. With his consent, Keller followed the Pakistani man into a dank, dark room away from the bustling shops. The potter had begun to spin the potter's wheel when:

Suddenly, as I watched, to my utter astonishment, I saw the stone stop. Why? I looked closely. The potter removed a small particle of grit from the goblet. His fingers had felt its resistance to his touch. He started the stone again. Quickly he smoothed the surface of the goblet. Then just as suddenly the stone stopped again. He removed another hard object - another tiny grain of sand - that left a scar in the side of the clay.

A look of anxiety and concern began to creep over the aged craftsman's face. His eyes began to hold a questioning look. Would the clay carry within it other particles of sand or grit or gravel that would resist his hands and wreck his work? Would all his finest intentions, highest hopes, and wonderful wishes come to nothing?

Why is my Father's will – His intention to turn out truly beautiful people brought to naught again and again? Because of their resistance, because of their hardness. Why, despite His best efforts and endless patience with human beings, do they end up a disaster? Simply because they resist His will, they will not cooperate, they will not comply with His commands. His hands – those tender, gentle, gracious hands – are thwarted by our stubborn wills.

(in The Inspirational Writings of Phillip Keller, p. 205-206)

Sin in our lives is a lot like grit. Sin in many ways represents resistance in our lives to the work of the master potter. He is shaping and molding our lives on the potter's wheel. Yet, we often cling to attitudes, habits, thoughts, and behaviors that act as "gritty" opposition to the Master's hands. Jesus is making it very clear- we must confess the grit in our lives. We must come clean before the Lord and ask Him to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. When we do that on a regular basis 1 John 1:8-9 reminds us that God is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins.

Let's be honest though; it takes courage and humility to come to God with sin in our lives. It can be much more comfortable to stay in denial. But that is just what the enemy of our souls wants. Satan knows that unconfessed sin, which stays in the darkness, has a way of interfering with God's work in our lives. This part of the Lord's prayer is a reminder that we must be diligent to not let grit remain hidden. Name your sins specifically, as the Holy Spirit brings them to mind and receive the cleansing that your soul, mind, and heart need.

One final thought...forgiveness of personal sin has a direct connection with the command to forgive others. When Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer He made it clear – we are to forgive others just as we ourselves have received forgiveness. Often, this is easier said than done and requires a choice of our wills. Granting forgiveness to others is never easy especially when someone else has thrown "grit" on to our lives. I often want to say, "would you please keep your grit to yourself, I have enough in my own life without you helping me out...thank you very much!" With this in mind, keep short accounts with wrongs that others have inflicted upon you. Believe it or not, it is in your own best interest to let the debt go, rather than harboring bitterness and resentment. Choosing to forgive will grant freedom and vitality in your life. That is why Jesus connected the two ideas together when He taught on forgiveness of sin.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you as you read the article?
2. What principles from the article are you most challenged by and why?
3. What questions or reservations do you have about asking God for forgiveness?
4. What challenges do you face in forgiving others?

10
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Encourage everyone to get their own private space for this activity. This is not something you will be asking them to share with others. This is a time between them and the Lord.

Instructions: Take some time on your own to allow God to remind you of unconfessed sin in your life. Allow the categories below to get you thinking about your thoughts and actions over the past 14 days. In your private time simply ask God to bring to mind by His Spirit any area of your life that needs to be confessed and forgiven. Take a portion of time with each word and ask, "Father is there any way that I have demonstrated _____ in the last 14 days." If something comes to mind ask Him to forgive you and then move on to the next word. Feel free to do the whole exercise silently in prayer or if you are more comfortable use the space provided below to write out your prayers. You might want to use a phrase like, "Father, I confess that I have been _____ when I _____. I ask that you would forgive me and cleanse me.

Anger

Pride

Self-sufficiency

Not trusting God

Lust

Envy

Boasting

Self-pity

Resentment

Jealousy

Hurting another with my words

Negative attitude

Gluttony

Money or possession focused

Disobeying God

Lies or half truths

5-10
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Hopefully by now the group is becoming a little more comfortable with the idea of praying aloud. This is another opportunity for people to pray with others about their needs. Ask people to pray briefly so that several can enter into the time of prayer. Ask the group to focus on the kinds of things they wrote down which they are comfortable praying about in front of others. If the group is comfortable you might want to split the group in half so each person can actually pray aloud more frequently. Ask people to use the pieces of the Lord's Prayer we have studied so far as an outline of the prayer time.

Part 1: Thank God that He is your Father and wants a close relationship with each of you.

Part 2: Spend time honoring and praising God for who He is

Part 3: Ask God to establish His will in your life and in others (pray for specific examples that come to mind).

Part 4: Bring specific needs (yours and others) before God

1. Our Father in heaven,
2. hallowed be Your name,
3. Your kingdom come,

Your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

4. Give us today our daily bread.

5. **Forgive us our debts,**

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

5
minutes

Homework:

Facilitator Instructions: Close out the session by highlighting the homework assignment.

Homework Assignment: As we learned, forgiving others is a part of the Lord's Prayer. For homework, take some time to consider the notion of forgiving others. Often, without realizing it, offenses from others can build up in our heart. Grit has a way of building up if we are not careful. Take some time this week to ask God to reveal to you the people and the offenses that you have not forgiven. Make a list on paper as the Lord helps you remember. Forgiving others does not mean we simply "forget." But rather it is a choice. We are choosing to forgive so that we can experience full freedom in Christ. Do not expect this to be easy. But it is well worth the effort!

For each person on your list, say aloud: Father, I forgive _____ for (specifically identify all offenses and painful memories)_____.

Forgive Us Our Debts

Learning Activity:

Discussion Questions:

1. What were some of the lessons you learned from your mistake?
2. What are some ways that God uses mistakes to grow us?

Learning Activity:

“Forgive us our debts”

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Let's be honest though; it takes courage and humility to come to God with sin in our lives. It can be much more comfortable to stay in denial. But that is just what the enemy of our souls wants. Satan knows that unconfessed sin, which stays in the darkness, has a way of interfering with God's work in our lives. This part of the Lord's prayer is a reminder that we must be diligent to not let grit remain hidden. Name your sins

specifically, as the Holy Spirit brings them to mind and receive the cleansing that your soul, mind, and heart need.

One final thought...forgiveness of personal sin has a direct connection with the command to forgive others. When Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer He made it clear – we are to forgive others just as we ourselves have received forgiveness. Often, this is easier said than done and requires a choice of our wills. Granting forgiveness to others is never easy especially when someone else has thrown “grit” on to our lives. I often want to say, “would you please keep your grit to yourself, I have enough in my own life without you helping me out...thank you very much!” With this in mind, keep short accounts with wrongs that others have inflicted upon you. Believe it or not, it is in your own best interest to let the debt go, rather than harboring bitterness and resentment. Choosing to forgive will grant freedom and vitality in your life. That is why Jesus connected the two ideas together when He taught on forgiveness of sin.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you as you read the article?
2. What principles from the article are you most challenged by and why?
3. What questions or reservations do you have about asking God for forgiveness?
4. What challenges do you face in forgiving others?

Learning Activity:

Instructions: Take some time on your own to allow God to remind you of unconfessed sin in your life. Allow the categories below to get you thinking about your thoughts and actions over the past 14 days. In your private time simply ask God to bring to mind by His Spirit any area of your life that needs to be confessed and forgiven. Take a portion of time with each word and ask, “Father is there any way that I have demonstrated _____ in the last 14 days.” If something comes to mind ask Him to forgive you and then move on to the next word. Feel free to do the whole exercise silently in prayer or if you are more comfortable use the space provided below to write out your prayers. You might want to use a phrase like, “Father, I confess that I have been _____ when I _____. I ask that you would forgive me and cleanse me.”

Forgive Us Our Debts

Anger

Pride

Self-sufficiency

Not trusting God

Lust

Envy

Boasting

Self-pity

Resentment

Jealousy

Hurting another with my words

Negative attitude

Gluttony

Money or possession focused

Disobeying God

Lies or half truths

Learning Activity:

Part 1: Thank God that He is your Father and wants a close relationship with each of you.

Part 2: Spend time honoring and praising God for who He is

Part 3: Ask God to establish His will in your life and in others (pray for specific examples that come to mind).

Part 4: Bring specific needs (yours and others) before God

1. Our Father in heaven,
2. hallowed be Your name,
3. Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
4. Give us today our daily bread.
5. **Forgive us our debts,**
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Homework:

Homework Assignment: As we learned, forgiving others is a part of the Lord's Prayer. For homework, take some time to consider the notion of forgiving others. Often, without realizing it, offenses from others can build up in our heart. Grit has a way of building up if we are not careful. Take some time this week to ask God to reveal to you the people and the offenses that you have not forgiven. Make a list on paper as the Lord helps you remember. Forgiving others does not mean we simply "forget." But rather it is a choice. We are choosing to forgive so that we can experience full freedom in Christ. Do not expect this to be easy. But it is well worth the effort!

For each person on your list, say aloud: Father, I forgive _____ for
(specifically identify all offenses and painful memories) _____

Deliver Us From Evil



10-15
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Taking the character from C.S. Lewis' Screwtape letters, each person is to develop their own personal Screwtape Letter.

(For those not familiar with the book, *The Screwtape Letters*, you might want to give a little background. Screwtape was a head demon and the Screwtape Letters are a compilation of memos that he sends to one of his underlings named Wormwood. The purpose of each letter from Screwtape is to give individual instructions to Wormwood on ways that he needs to attack, deceive, and thwart the efforts of a person seeking after God.)

Set up the exercise with the following instructions:

Take 10 minutes to write your own personalized Screwtape Letter. The assignment is to write a letter to a demon who is assigned to thwart, minimize, and deceive **you**. What would that strategy look and sound like? In other words, what would the strategy be for preventing you from living effectively for God? If you share your letter, it would only be as a volunteer, so feel free to be authentic and honest in what you write about.

Screwtape Letters (personalized)

Dear Wormwood,

If you feel that there is enough safety in the group, it can be very powerful to have someone volunteer to read his or her letter to the rest of the group. Ask if anyone would be comfortable reading their letter to the group. If more than one is willing that would be great. After one or more have read then ask a few additional questions:

Discussion Questions:

1. What was it like to write your own Screwtape Letter?
2. In your experience, how do most people perceive Satan and demons?

Key Insight: The last portion of the Lord's Prayer speaks to our need for protection from Satan and from evil. The Screwtape Letter exercise is simply a way to acknowledge the fact that we are in a spiritual battle and prayer is one of our surest defenses.

10-15
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Before you move into the article below, ask the group how they did with the homework from the last session on forgiving others. Ask for a few volunteers to share what the experience was like for them (also, be ready to share your own experience for the benefit of the group).

Transition the group to the article entitled "Deliver Us From Evil." Ask everyone to read slowly and to highlight the key ideas. After everyone has read, ask people to respond to the reading in groups of two and three by going through the discussion questions at the end of the article. Then bring the whole group back together and ask people to share their responses to the discussion questions. You might want to capture the insights on a flipchart or white board.

Deliver Us From Evil

In the previous modules, we have explored a number of different ways to pray through the Lord's Prayer. It's not meant to be a trite, formulaic kind of prayer. Rather, it is a model or template that we can use to have extended times of prayer before our heavenly Father. God wants us to experience all of the fullness of what it means for Him to be our Father. He desires closeness and authenticity with each of His children. Secondly, we focused on unique ways that we can declare "hallowed be Your name" as we consider the character and reputation of God. The third module injected the idea of prayerwalking as a creative way to pray about God's kingdom and will to be established in our lives and communities. The section on "Daily Bread" helped us to see that God is interested in meeting our daily needs and that He wants us to bring those petitions before Him. The fifth module challenged us to carefully consider our critical need for forgiveness of sin. God wants us to deal with "grit" in our lives and to also extend forgiveness to those that have sinned against us.

In this section, we will explore the portion of the Lord's Prayer that centers on the phrase "deliver us from the evil one" from Matthew 6:9-13:

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.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.**

Throughout this series, prayer is likened to the dynamic experience of an artisan working a piece of clay on a potter's wheel. Once the raw material has been shaped by the potter, it is set aside for a time before it is placed in a kiln to be cured. In Jeremiah 17:7-8 we find these words:

But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Heat and drought are a part of the human experience. We live in a broken world which is in active rebellion against our Lord. One of the consequences of the Fall is that pain and difficulty intersect all of our lives. It is not a question of “will the heat and drought come?” as it is “when will the heat and drought come?” But rather, how will you respond to the trial, the pressure, the temptation, or the flaming arrow from the enemy? All pieces of clay eventually find their way into the kiln...it is a part of the process of becoming a useful instrument for the will and pleasure of the potter.

Some works of clay do not respond favorably to the heat of the kiln. The blast from the furnace overwhelms some pieces of pottery and they crack under the oppressive pressure. Other cups, jars, and dishes are able to successfully withstand the experience and emerge as a useful instrument. When we get to this portion of the Lord’s Prayer we are simply asking the Lord to help us not to crack. It is as if we are saying, “I know that the heat is coming...I know that the pressures of life are coming my way...help me to respond well and to hold up under the blast of heat.”

Being placed in the kiln then is your lot in life. Your Father in heaven wants to give you the supernatural help and strength to endure the fiery ordeal. He wants to help you see the way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13) and to choose to take that route. Sometimes we see the kiln coming and we can ask the Lord for His protective strength to be a “heat shield.” Still other life experiences simply creep into our lives with the forcefulness of a tornado that has gone undetected. We desperately need His strength to not crack when life throws us a curveball. The Lord’s Prayer is a reminder that God wants us to bring all of our “kiln” experiences to Him. Asking for His help is a way to admit our weakness and our frailty.

Many believers are intimidated to discuss the reality of Satan. C.S. Lewis claimed that most Christians either give Satan too much credit and attention or completely ignore his existence. Peter reminds us though in 1 Peter 5:8-9 that:

Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Some of the trials and difficulties that come our way in life are attacks of the enemy. And we are given the biblical command to resist him by standing firm in our faith. James 4:7 instructs us to “Submit yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” The Lord’s Prayer is a fantastic reminder about where the strength and courage must come from to resist the evil one. The power to resist and to stand firm must come from God and it is ours to grab a hold of if we will only pray. We need to regularly and consistently ask for the Lord to deliver us from evil. We can ask God to be a hedge of protection, a fortress for our defense, a rock in the midst of the storm, our defender in the battle, and our shield from flaming missiles.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you as you read the article?
2. What principles from the article are you most challenged by and why?
3. What questions or reservations do you have about praying for protection from Satan and from temptation?

15
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: Spend time as a whole group working through Ephesians 6:10-18 which is one of the classic passages on the reality of Satan and the battle we are in. After reading the passage aloud, discuss the questions below:

1. What does Paul want us to understand verse 12?
2. Why does Paul want us to put on the whole armor of God (vs. 11)?
3. Why do you think Paul uses the word “stand” so often in this passage?
4. What might be some examples of a flaming arrow of the evil one (vs.16)?
5. How do you interpret the six pieces of armor mentioned in this passage?
6. What role does prayer play in “standing firm?”
7. What are personally most challenged by in this passage?

5-10
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: This is the final opportunity for people to pray with others about their needs and to work through the Lord's Prayer. Ask people to pray briefly so that several can enter into the time of prayer. Ask the group to focus on the kinds of things they wrote down which they are comfortable praying about in front of others. If the group is comfortable you might want to split the group in half so each person can actually pray aloud more frequently. Ask people to use the pieces of the Lord's Prayer we have studied as an outline for the prayer time.

Part 1: Thank God that He is your Father and wants a close relationship with each of you.

Part 2: Spend time honoring and praising God for who He is

Part 3: Ask God to establish His will in your life and in others (pray for specific examples that come to mind).

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Part 5: Ask for forgiveness of any sin in your life and choose to forgive others

Part 6: Ask for God's strength in any trials your or others are facing and ask for protection from the work of the enemy.

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on earth as it is in heaven.
4. Give us today our daily bread.
5. Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
6. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

5-10
minutes

Learning Activity:

Facilitator Instructions: As a final wrap-up for the series ask people to respond to the two last discussion questions as a way to celebrate what God has done:

Discussion Questions:

1. What have been two personal highlights for you in going through this series?
2. What do you hope will be different in your life as a result of this series?

Close the meeting with a time of thanksgiving for all that God has done in the group.

Deliver Us From Evil

Learning Activity:

Take 10 minutes to write your own personalized Screwtape Letter. The assignment is to write a letter to a demon who is assigned to thwart, minimize, and deceive you. What would that strategy look and sound like? In other words, what would the strategy be for preventing you from living effectively for God? You won't be asked to share your letter with anyone so feel free to be authentic and honest in what you write about.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was it like to write your own Screwtape Letter?
2. In your experience, how do most people perceive Satan and demons?

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