

# pray first

# SESSION 2

## The Lord's Prayer

the transformative power  
of a life built on prayer

it's important to realise that Jesus wasn't teaching us words to memorise but rather how to connect with our Father.

### Connect:

Discuss the following questions:

What key insight or takeaway from last session's study that you would like to share with the group?

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How often do you use the Lord's Prayer as part of your personal prayer time?

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### Watch:

Now it's time to watch the video for this session. As you watch, use the following outline to record any thoughts or concepts that stand out to you.

### I. CONNECT WITH GOD RELATIONALLY

- A. "Our Father in heaven" (Matthew 6:9a). Calling God our Father allows us to connect with him relationally.
- B. When we call God our Father, we use his favourite title, which reflects his lavish love for us.
- C. Your view of God will determine your relationship with God.

### II. WORSHIP HIS NAME

- A. Hallowed be your name" (verse 9b). In Proverbs 18:10, we read that God's name is a place of protection for the righteous. We can actually run to his name to find safety
- B. The names of God in Scripture are important because the name of God is the power of God. Demons bow at the name of Jesus (see Philippians 2:10-11)
- C. In the heavenlies, the name of God carries weight, authority and power

### III. PRAY GOD'S AGENDA FIRST

- A. "Your Kingdom Come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (verse 10). The Bible says that when we go to God in prayer, we pray for *his* kingdom to come and *his* will to be done.
- B. God will always give you what you need from day to day if you will make the kingdom of God your primary concern (see Luke 12:31).
- C. God's agenda is always people. It's even people who are far from him, people who are hurting, and people who have never heard the Gospel.

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### IV. DEPEND ON GOD FOR EVERYTHING

- A. "Give us this day our daily bread" (verse 11) When we pray this and say, "give us," we're communicating that God has everything we need.
- B. It's good for us to ask God for things that we think we can take care of ourselves. We don't wait until we've lost them to ask God for them.
- C. Be specific and ask God for everything you need in your life.

### V. GET YOUR HEART RIGHT WITH GOD AND PEOPLE

- A. "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (verse 12). First, we confess to God that we still have some attitudes or some issues in our lives that are not pleasing to him.
- B. When we confess our sins daily to God and ask him to search our hearts, it keeps us from getting desensitized to the world and to the impact of our sins.
- C. We must also get our hearts right with people. Every day, forgive the people who have hurt you and, in your mind, forgive those who will hurt you that day.

### VI. ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- A. "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" (verse 13a). Prayer is not just communion with God but also confrontation with the enemy.
- B. The enemy's greatest weapon is a lie. He will lie to you about your identity, about your future, about your problems - even about God. Make your declarations against him out of God's Word.
- C. Every day, take your stand against the enemy and fight the good fight of faith.

### VII. EXPRESS FAITH IN GOD'S ABILITY

- A. "For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever" (verse 13b). We release our faith by reminding ourselves of God's ability and limitless power.
- B. It is a great exclamation point at the end of our prayer time to acknowledge that nothing is too difficult for God.
- C. If you use the Lord's Prayer as a process to follow, you will enjoy prayer at a whole new level.

**DISCUSS:** Discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions

1. The first line of the Lord's Prayer reads: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name" (Matthew 6:9). What challenges have you faced in viewing God as your loving Father? What has helped you see him more clearly in this way?
  
2. The next portion of the Lord's Prayer reads: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (verse 10). Why do you think Jesus included this instruction to pray for God's kingdom to come on earth? What does it mean to pray for God's will to be done?

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3. Jesus' next instruction in his model prayer is simply: "Give us today our daily bread" (verse 11). What is the significance in asking for God to provide our daily bread? When you ask God to provide your "daily bread," what are you usually including?

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4. The final section of the Lord's Prayer reads: "And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" (verse 12-13). How frequently do you use prayer to confront the enemy? How does prayer help you overcome the devil's temptations, snares, and deceptions?

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5. Have you ever considered the Lord's prayer as being a model for prayer rather than a particular prayer to memorize and recite? How would you explain the difference?

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6. Which of the seven aspects of the Lord's Prayer that were covered in this session resonates with you most right now? Why does that particular aspect stand out to you?

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7. The word hallow means "to make holy or set apart for holy use" What does it mean for you to hallow God's name? What aspects of God's name, mean the most to you?

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8. How will praying The Lord's Prayer be different for you moving forward? How can you personalize it while maintaining components that we've discussed in this session?

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### RESPOND:

As mentioned in the video, we focused on the Lord's Prayer as recorded in Matthew's Gospel. Now take a few minutes on your own to read this prayer as it's recorded in Luke's Gospel. When you are finished answer the questions that follow

"Father,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread,

Forgive our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation." **Luke 11:2-4**

What similar words and phrases are found in each version of the prayer?

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What are some of the differences found in each version of the prayer?

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What confuses you, concerns you, or piques your curiosity in this prayer model?

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### PRAY:

Wrap up your group's prayer time by praying together, by using one of these seven topics of the Lord's Prayer. Try not to rush through this process as you explore each one of these seven aspects. Including praise and worship, provision, forgiveness and grace, and protection and power. Thank Jesus for providing this outline to help you draw closer to your heavenly Father!