

The Red Letters of Jesus: Prayer
January 28, 2025 Handout

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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

- Matthew 6:10-13 (NIV)

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

- Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)

The Lord's Prayer is a profound and practical reflection of these two commandments: to love God and love others - and in that order.

"Our Father in heaven."

First, Jesus calls God, "____Father."

Second, Jesus says, "____ Father."

"Hallowed be your name":

To "hallow" means "to treat as_____". When Jesus prayed, "Hallowed be Your name," He was saying that His ultimate goal in life was to glorify and make _____the most important thing.

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

When we pray, “*Your kingdom come*,” we are making a profound two-part declaration. First, we are acknowledging that there is a true_____ hence the word kingdom.

Second, we are declaring that the world is not as it should be. This line of the prayer is both a cry for restoration and a declaration of hope, asking God to bring His just and heavenly rule to earth.

“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”

Jesus seems to think we need a daily reminder that we are _____and that we are called to _____ others. In fact, I would go so far as to say that a hallmark of a Christian is our ability to_____.

Forgiveness does not mean there are no_____.

Forgiveness is also not the same as reconciliation. Reconciliation requires both parties to come together, but forgiveness only takes _____. As disciples of Jesus, forgiveness means surrendering our right to _____, even while holding the other person accountable for their actions.

“Lead us not into temptation.”

This phrase begins with an acknowledgment of our human weakness. By praying these words, we’re admitting that we are vulnerable to _____and in need of God’s help. It also acknowledges the reality of evil in the world - both within us and around us.

The Bible does not say that God won’t give us more than we can handle in terms of trials. The idea that “*God doesn’t give you more than you can bear*” is specifically about temptation, not suffering.

“Deliver us from evil” or “the evil one.”

The New Testament makes it very clear that the devil is ____.

It's also clear that the devil has already been _____. As

Christians, we know that the devil has been conquered by the blood of the lamb on the cross. But while the war is over, there are still battles to be fought.

Discussion Questions

1. "*Our Father in heaven*": Why is addressing God as our Father important to acknowledge in prayer?
2. "*Hallowed be your name*": What does it mean to hallow? Who or what do you hallow? What does it mean to Hallow be your name?
3. "*Your kingdom come*": What does it mean to pray for God's kingdom to come?" And why should we pray, "your will be done, on earth as in heaven"? Now that you understand this phrase, how will your plans, words, thoughts, and actions be different?
4. "*Give us this day our daily bread*": What can tempt us to think we don't need the Lord to provide for us?
5. "*Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors*": Why is forgiving others so important in our relationship with God that Jesus tells us this as part of his framework for regular prayer? Do you agree that a hallmark of a Christian is to forgive?
6. "*Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one*" expresses our inherent human weakness, vulnerability, and deep need for God's protection and guidance. Do you agree with this statement or not?