

Week 34 Parent Sheet: The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 NAS

This prayer is for Jesus' disciples – those who are sorry for their sins and trust in Him as their Savior!

Bethlehem Family Childcare – Wednesdays: Story Time (9:30-10:00) and Bible Time (10:00-10:30)

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Many Events of Jesus' Life in Chronological Order:

- Born (5 BC)
- Named – when 8 days old
- Presented at the Temple – when 40 days old
- Visited by Wise Men – when 2 months old
- Fled to Egypt – when 2 months old
- Returned to live in Nazareth – when 1 year old
- His parents thought He was lost – when 12 years old
- Baptized by John – when 30 years old
- Some important events of His three-year ministry:
 - ✦ Tempted in the wilderness
 - ✦ Moved from Nazareth to Capernaum
 - ✦ Called His disciples
 - ✦ **Preached the Sermon on the Mount**
 - ✦ Performed many miracles
 - ✦ Sent out His disciples to heal and teach
 - ✦ Warned about persecution
 - ✦ Told many parables
 - ✦ Heard of the death of John the Baptist
 - ✦ More miracles and teaching
 - ✦ Transfigured, Moses and Elijah appeared with Him
 - ✦ More miracles and teaching
 - ✦ Welcomed into Jerusalem – on Palm Sunday
 - ✦ Taught many things – on Holy Tuesday
 - ✦ Instituted the Lord's Supper – on Holy Thursday
 - ✦ Arrested, tried, crucified, and died – on Good Friday
 - ✦ Raised to life – on the third day, Easter Sunday
 - ✦ Ascended into heaven – 40 days after Easter

Background:

1. One of Jesus' greatest sermons was the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7); the Lord's Prayer is part of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount.
2. Today's Bible text is from the New American Standard Bible – *which is a very literal translation of the Greek.*

The Lord's Prayer and Martin Luther's Explanations:

1. Jesus' command and the Lord's Prayer Introduction:
⁹ **"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven** – With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.
2. First Petition: **Hallowed be Thy name** – God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

3. Second Petition: ¹⁰ **Thy kingdom come** – God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.
4. Third Petition: **Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven** – God's will is done when he breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.
5. Fourth Petition: ¹¹ **Give us this day our daily bread** – God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.
6. Fifth Petition: ¹² **And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors** – We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.
7. Sixth Petition: ¹³ **And do not lead us into temptation** – God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.
8. Seventh Petition: **but deliver us from evil** – We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.
9. Conclusion: **For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen ."** – This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us.

Thought: Teach the prayer to your children; then, as they get older, *help them to understand what each part means!*