



LET US PRAY

LESSON 4 // HOW TO PRAY—PART 1

Big Idea: Prayer is a vital part of your relationship with God. Jesus taught us how to pray so that we experience the blessings and benefits of God's kingdom—His rule and will. He taught us that: heaven is a real place with real resources; God wants His heaven to come to our earth; experiencing heaven on earth requires our prayers and cooperation; prayer releases God's resources and guides us into God's will.

Matthew 6:10 (NIV) *Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Romans 14:17 (NIV) *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

John 10:10 (NLT) *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.*

Galatians 5:17 (NLT) *The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other and your choices are never free from this conflict.*

Ephesians 6:11-12 (NLT) *Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms.*

1 John 2:15-17 (NLT) *Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions. These are not from the Father. They are from this evil world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever.*

Start Talking:

Why is it important for us as Christians to believe that heaven is real and has real resources available to us?

Start Thinking:

Read Matthew 6:10. What do you think it means that God wants His kingdom to come here on earth "as it is in heaven"? How should this impact your daily walk with Him?

Read John 10:10; Romans 14:17. What are some of the benefits of living in God's kingdom, under His rule?

Read Galatians 5:17; Ephesians 6:11-13; 1 John 2:15-17. What do you learn from these verses about the battle you face in prayer and in living for God's kingdom in this world? What difference should this make in how and what you pray?

Start Praying and Doing:

Work on memorizing the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). This week especially focus on verse 10: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Pray this each day this week and look for opportunities to obey the Lord in ways that make a difference for His kingdom in your sphere of influence.