

Confirmation Session 3:

NAME:

The Lord's Prayer

Make Up Packet

This packet has been designed for the student, with the aid and supervision of a parent, to complete at home when he/she was unable to attend the class session. There will be numerous readings, Bible verses to look up and write about, and questions to reflect on. It is expected that this packet will take a little effort on the part of the student – and a corresponding effort on the part of a parent – to learn on an individual basis what we worked together on in our class session.

Along with completing this packet, the student will also be required to complete **the Family Discussion Guide** correlating to this unit. Parents will need to work with the student on the readings and discussion questions. Following the completion of the separate Family Discussion Guide, the parent is asked to complete the "**Parent Report Form**" attached to the back of the Family Discussion Guide.

The **Make Up Packet** and the **Family Discussion Guide** should both be completed and returned to the teachers at the next scheduled class session.

Please remember that you are also responsible to complete **10 Worship Summaries** during the course of the year. Please work to have at least half of them done before Christmas. Worship Summary forms are in the office in a plastic file box hung inside the office door.

If you have any questions about this packet, please call DCE Anna at the church office (228-9883).

1 – A God Who Hears

Why do we pray?

We pray because God has promised to be our God and wants to have a close and loving relationship with us. We pray, too, because God wants us to pray and teaches us how to pray through the Lord's Prayer.

Why do we sometimes call God "Our Father"?

We can call God "Our Father" because God loves us the way good parents love their children.

When millions of people pray in many languages, can we trust God to really hear us when we pray?

Yes. God hears all our prayers.

"Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24).

What does it mean when we pray "Hallowed be your name"?

We pray that God's name and Word be held in respect by all people.

Five-year-old Greg was bursting with energy and excitement as his parents stepped out of the car on the fairgrounds. The people, lights, and especially the rides, thrilled him as they walked toward the midway. His parents had cautioned him to remain close to them, but Greg got carried away by it all. In his haste to get to the merry-go-round, he became separated from his parents.

He yelled out, "Mom, Dad, where are you?" But he heard only the screams of people from the thrill rides and felt the jostling of hurrying strangers.

"Please help me!" he shouted, but no one heeded his cries. Greg panicked and began running frantically in all directions, screaming at the top of his lungs, "Mom, Dad, where are you?" There was no answer, just the din of the crowd and the noise of the midway.

As tears streamed down his face, Greg wondered whether his parents would ever find him. He felt so fearful and alone. His mind was whirling and his legs would hardly carry him.

"Mom, Dad, please find me!" he cried.

Greg's parents could see his panic-stricken face as he ran by the merry-go-round. They could hear his frantic cries, but the crowd made it impossible for them to get to him immediately. Greg could not hear their calls to him because he was screaming and crying so loudly that he could only hear himself.

"Greg, Greg, here we are."

Greg finally heard their voices as he was drawing a deep breath between loud cries. "Here I am," he shouted with a shaky voice. His parents rushed the final steps to Greg and picked him up. "We could see you and hear you because we were close, Greg, but you were shouting and crying so much, you couldn't hear us."

Greg threw his arms around his parents and said, "I'm so happy you found me; I'll never leave you again."

A closer look

The relationship between Greg and his parents is much like the kind of relationship God wants to have with us. God can see and hear us and is close by even when we seem unaware of that fact. Often our own cries block out God's call to us, but God continues to seek us out and call us like shepherds call their sheep.

As well as approaching God with our cries, we need to listen for God's voice. Our need to remain close to God in a relationship of prayer is parallel to Greg who promised to remain close to his parents but wandered off. If we sense that God is further from us than we once thought, we can be sure who it was that moved! Us!

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to call God Our Father. We can call God "Our Father," not because God is a man, but because God loves us the way good parents love their children.

Just as Greg responded in joyful relief at being heard, so we can respond to God and keep the name of God holy by living in love with one another.

The Introduction

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean?

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.

The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

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!

Discussion Questions:

Reading 1: A God Who Hears

The Bible provides us with important insights about the nature of our prayer relationship with God. We know that God hears our prayers and answers in love. This is not the case with false gods who promise, but cannot deliver. A biblical story clearly illustrates this in the contest between the false god Baal and the God of Israel. Read the story in 1 Kings 18:16-39.

1. What does 1 Kings 18:26 say about the false god?
2. What did the false prophets do to try to force Baal to listen? (1 Kings 18:28-29)
3. What happened when Elijah prayed to the God of Israel? (1 Kings 18:36-39)
4. God not only hears our prayers, but God came to us through Jesus. Jesus is no longer with us in the flesh, so God comes to us in another way. What does John 14:16-17 tell us?
5. Because God hears us and is close to us, names we have for God are important. By what name did Jesus call God in Mark 14:36?
6. What does Paul say in Romans 8:15?
7. God's name is to be "hallowed" that is kept holy and honored by the way we live. Actions do speak louder than words. How can we show others that God is important to us and that we keep the name of God holy?

2 – Receiving the Kingdom

What do we pray for when we say “Your kingdom come”?

We pray that God may rule in the hearts and lives of all people.

"Behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you" (Luke 17:21).

Can we cause God's kingdom to come?

God's kingdom comes without our praying for it, but we do pray that God gives us the Holy Spirit.

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts, to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13).

How do we become members of the kingdom?

We become members of the kingdom through our Baptism. We pray that the Holy Spirit will help us keep our faith so the kingdom will come to us in its heavenly glory too.

History tells the exciting adventure story of a daring young man who was destined to conquer most of the then known world. His name, Alexander of Macedon, is also known to us as Alexander the Great. This fiery, young, Greek commander was determined not only to subdue the enemies of Greece, but also to bring the Greek language, culture, and influence upon the whole ancient world.

After conquering a country, he would often import people from his native land to live in the newly conquered area to teach them the Greek language and way of life. Thus he was not only interested in conquering countries, but his intention was to conquer people's hearts and change their lives and their loyalties.

As a result of Alexander's rule, the world was changed. The New Testament was written in Greek because the writers were a part of that ancient world. The influence of Greek art, architecture, literature, and philosophy could be felt and seen everywhere.

Alexander died in 323 B.C. at the age of 33, but we still feel the impact of his rule and influence. Those who live in the western world have been taught to think and reason like the ancient Greeks. The Olympic Games, which draw athletes from many nations, began in Greece centuries ago. Young men who study in our seminaries learn Greek in order to better understand the Bible.

It is little wonder that Alexander was called "the Great" since his conquest of land and people was felt not only in his world, but in ours as well.

A closer look

The story of Alexander is a human analogy that illustrates the impact and power of God's rule on the world. Alexander exercised his control in an effort to change people's life-styles and thinking.

In the Lord's Prayer we ask for God's kingdom, or rule and influence, to come. We pray that God will dramatically affect the lives of people, and God will influence us for good as we allow God into our hearts and lives.

If an ancient ruler such as Alexander could influence the world to such an extent, how much more can God's rule change the world if people allow God to rule in their hearts!

The Second Petition

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean?

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also

How does God's 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.

Discussion Questions:**Reading 2: Receiving the Kingdom**

God's Kingdom. The coming of God's rule or kingdom is something which God accomplishes. The evidence of God's rule in our lives can be seen when we show through our words and actions that God lives within us. This study will help you look more closely at what is meant by the kingdom

1. What does Psalm 145:13 say about God's kingdom?
2. What does Psalm 103:19 say about God's rule?

Jesus and the kingdom. The people of God believed that God ruled over all of heaven and earth. Their hope was that God would come with power to establish the kingdom in a dramatic way upon earth. God did this for them and for us in sending Jesus into the world. The biblical account of Jesus is a powerful witness of God's rule in the world.

3. How did Jesus announce the coming of the kingdom in Mark 1:14-15?
4. Jesus' life and work, as well as his message, was evidence of God's coming. What did this indicate when Jesus cast out demons? (Matthew 12:28)
5. According to Matthew 4:23 and Luke 9:11, what was another sign of the kingdom's coming as shown in the life and work of Jesus?
6. What did Jesus say to the Pharisees about the coming of the kingdom? (Luke 17:20-21)

The kingdom and us. The power of God's rule can be experienced in our lives. Jesus told parables to illustrate this.

7. What does the parable of the mustard seed teach us about the kingdom of God? (Matthew 13:31-32)

8. What is God's desire for us in relationship to the kingdom? (Luke 12:32)

9. Read what Paul says about the kingdom in Romans 14:17. What makes up the kingdom?

While we wait. The rule of God is not yet complete, thus the kingdom in all its fullness is still expected in the future. Jesus says, "But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Mark 13:32)

10. What did Jesus do to help the disciples and us remember the coming of the kingdom? (Luke 22:14-16)

11. As we await the final rule of God, what do the gospel writers tell us to do? (Matthew 10:38, Mark 8:34, Luke 14:27)

12. We know very little about the final coming of the kingdom, but the Bible gives us some pictures of it. What does Revelation 21:3-4 tell us?

13. Because of the promise of a new heaven and earth when the final rule of God comes, the early Christians prayed a brief prayer called "Maranatha." What are the words of the prayer? (Revelation 22:20)

3 – Doing the Will of God

What do we pray for when we say “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”?

We pray for help to do God’s will and oppose evil.

“You are my God; teach me to do you will” (Psalm 143:10 TEV).

“Not everyone who calls me ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do” (Matthew 7:21 TEV).

How can we be helped to do God’s will?

Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us grace to keep us firm in God’s Word and in faith.

How are the first three petitions related to one another?

They deal with God’s name, God’s kingdom and God’s will. These petitions speak about the same thing: that we should respect and obey God as the ruler of our lives.

Tony was a tough kid in the ninth grade. He was big and strong and threw his weight around at school and at home. His attitude was that there was his way and the wrong way, and no one had better get in his way. His style was to think I’m first, then you.

When fall arrived, Tony went out for football and was intent on being a star.

His size, speed, and superior strength made him a super player. But Tony had problems here as well. He didn’t want to listen to the coach, learn the plays, or cooperate with other team members. He decided to do his own thing!

One day the coach said, "Tony, football is a team sport. The purpose is that the whole team plays together. You need to learn the plays, cooperate, and play by the rules or you can’t play at all!"

Tony was furious! He thought the coach was stupid and his team a bunch of fools! As he cooled down and considered more calmly what the coach had said, he began to realize that he had a choice. Either listen to the coach and assume responsibility or not play the game he loved so much. As Tony talked with the coach over the next several days he began to change his ways.

He not only learned more about the game and the plays, but more importantly, his whole attitude began to change. He accepted the directions of the coach, cooperated with his team, and discovered that his world was different. The world around him had not changed as he once felt it should, but he had changed in relationship to his world. It was sometimes hard not to take control and insist on his own way; but as Tony learned to be open and cooperative with others, his life became more meaningful and happy.

A closer look

When Tony went out for the football team he placed his selfish will above the will and purpose of the coach and team. Tony changed his ways after several talks with the coach and after reflection on what the coach said. He began to realize that it was his responsibility to change his ways.

So too in our relationship with God. We think about God’s Word and communicate with God in prayer that God’s will and purpose might be done. When that occurs, we find that changes happen to our will

and way. God does not need to change, for God's will is already good. Tony may have been reluctant to change, but he discovered that life was more pleasant when he was open to others.

Each of us may feel that we have the right to run our lives and develop our goals. As Christians, it is important to ask: What is God's will for my life?

It is important to be able to affirm and assert oneself as a child of God, but not at the expense of others. God's will is done as we use our God-given gifts in the service of others and affirm others in the use of their gifts for the good of all. In other words, God's will is done when people respond to each other in love.

The Third Petition

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in the petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done?

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.

Discussion Questions:

Reading 3: Doing the Will of God

1. God's purpose in creation was that people should live in harmony with each other and with God in control. What was the real temptation Adam and Eve had to deal with? (Genesis 3:4-5)
2. People continued to disobey God's will and way. What does Genesis 6:5-6 say about the situation?
3. The history of God's people is one of rebellion and sin. How did the people of God resist God's will and way in Exodus 32:1-6?
4. What does 1 Samuel 8:4-7 say about the people's relationship with God?
5. Rejecting God's will and purpose is called sin. Once sin invades our life, it takes control. What does Paul say about this? (Romans 7:15-20)

6. In Romans 6:23, what does Paul write concerning the consequences of sin?

7. We are in a “death trap” and need to be rescued. Our conflict with God concerning who is in control caused us to be caught and condemned in sin. Only as we pray constantly that our will be brought into conformity with God’s will can there be hope. We pray, “Your will be done” and look to Jesus for understanding of this petition. What does Jesus say in the following passages?
 - a. John 5:30

 - b. John 6:38

 - c. Matthew 26:39,42

8. God’s Spirit enables us to be free from sin and change our lives. What word does Paul use to talk about this change? (Romans 12:2)

9. Prayer is not only petitioning God for help, but permitting God to participate in our lives. As we open ourselves to God’s will and purpose, there is a challenge to commitment. Praying, “Your will be done,” must be more than words. What does Jesus say about the will of God? (Matthew 7:21)

10. Christian living is not a ticket to sit on the sidelines and watch, but a challenge to become involved in the world so that God’s good and gracious will is accomplished through us. What does Jesus say the will of God is? (Mark 12:29-31)

11. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus tells a powerful parable about the final judgment of God. What does verse 45 tell us about doing God’s will?

4 – Thankful Living

What is our daily bread?

Our daily bread includes everything we need for life.

What do we pray for when we say, “Give us today our daily bread?”

Even though God gives daily bread to those who do not ask for it, we do not want to receive it that way. We know we do not obtain our daily bread through our own efforts, but by God's grace. When we pray, "Give us today our daily bread," we also give credit to God for what God gives us.

“The eyes of all look to thee, and thou givest them their food in due season. Thou openest thy hand, thou satisfies the desire of every living thing” (Psalm 145:15-16).

Why do we pray for “today” only?

Because we trust God will care for us and that we do not need to be overly concerned about tomorrow.

“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day’s own trouble be sufficient for today” (Matthew 6:34).

Marty was on her way home from school when she heard whimpering from a nearby alley. She cautiously moved in the direction of the cry and to her surprise found a small puppy. It was soaked from the previous night's rain, its paws bleeding from cuts it had suffered, and its ribs sticking out from its scraggly fur. The puppy looked up at Marty with sad, sore eyes, not knowing what to expect.

Marty knelt down, carefully picked up the puppy in her arms, and started for home. She was sad that the little dog had suffered so much, but she was happy that she found it in time.

"Look what I found, Mom," she shouted. "It's a lost puppy. I found it in the alley not far from school."

"What are we going to do with a dog, Marty? We already have two cats!"

"Oh please, Mom, can't we keep him? He is so little, and look how hungry and hurt he is."

Marty's mom's heart melted, too, when she saw the little pup. So they gave it some warm milk, cleaned the wounds, dried it off, and put it in a basket with an old blanket to keep it warm.

"Look how he likes that tattered blanket," said Marty. "I think I'll call him Tatters!"

As the days passed, his wounds healed and Tatters was nursed back to health. He had been given food, shelter, and care, but also the warmth and love of the whole family. He learned to trust Marty and eagerly looked forward to her coming home from school each day. Tatters made friends with the family cats and learned to not only live with them, but to share his food and water dish with them as well. His excited barks and playful nature were proof that Tatters had settled into his new home.

A closer look

Most of us have had an experience similar to Marty's. We feel the pity, compassion, and caring for an injured animal. We are moved by such stories about animals and we are motivated to care for them as creatures of the Creator.

Sometimes we may feel afraid to touch or help a bird or animal that has been injured. Many times the injured animal may be fearful at being approached by a human being.

Humans often have the same reaction to one another. However, we know that God wants us to care for our fellow human beings in a loving and helping way. The people of God are called into service not only to proclaim the Good News but to practice the Good News by caring for neighbors both far and near.

In a world which hungers for food as well as faith, Christians must seriously consider what it means to pray for our daily bread. In this session, daily bread is thought of in a very broad sense. It includes everything needed for daily living. The Christian responsibility for daily bread goes beyond individual needs, for we pray, "Give us today our daily bread."

The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

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.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Discussion Questions:

Reading 4: Thankful Living

Asking God to provide for our daily bread means we believe that we receive it by God's grace. The Bible study will help you learn more about receiving God's gifts.

Receive God's gifts. We receive the gifts of God as whole persons. God is concerned about all of our daily needs. What does it mean to understand yourself as a whole person? The idea of *holism* is that we are complete and total people only when all parts are functioning. Physical, emotional and spiritual needs cannot be separated from each other. Read and answer the following questions about receiving God's gifts.

1. When God's people wandered in the wilderness, two physical provisions, _____ (quail) and _____ (manna), were made for their hunger. (Exodus 16:13-15)
2. What simple but essential gift was given to the wandering Israelites in Exodus 17:6?
3. Jesus had compassion for the hungry crowds who followed him. What did he do for the crowds? (Matthew 15:35-37)
4. Jesus not only provided food and drink for the body, but healing as well. Refer to some of the healing stories (Matthew 8:1-17, Matthew 8:28-34, and Matthew 12:9-22) and note that Jesus' healing involved the mind, body, and spirit. What does this tell you about Jesus?
5. Read John 6:32-35. Who or what is the "true bread from heaven"? _____
 - a. What does this "bread" do for us?

Be thankful. It is important for us all to remember with thanksgiving that God is the provider of our daily bread. Note that Jesus always gave thanks to God for the gifts of food and drink.

6. The writer of 1 Chronicles 16:8-36 records an extended psalm of thanksgiving to God as the source of all goodness. What does the writer say about God in verse 34?

7. God even blesses those who do not acknowledge or remember God as the source of all gifts. How easy it is to forget who has blessed us and to be carried away with our own lives. A parable in Luke 12:13-21 tells the story of a greedy rich farmer and reminds us to beware of covetousness or greed. In this case the rich man dies and does not benefit from his riches. Read what Jesus tells another rich person in Luke 18:24-25. What do you think Jesus means by this statement?

Remain satisfied. Asking for daily bread implies that we remain satisfied with what we have. We don't need to accumulate more and more because God takes care of us daily.

8. Go back to the story of God caring for the people in the wilderness. Read Exodus 16:18 and 16:21. Think about what these verses said to the Israelites. What do they teach us?
9. All of us are worried and anxious about different things in our lives. Read Matthew 6:25-34. What does Jesus say about being anxious?

Respond by sharing.

Besides being content or satisfied with our situation, the Fourth Petition says we should respond by sharing God's gifts with others. The petition says, "Give *us* this day *our* daily bread," not only *my* daily bread. It is in sharing that we truly receive.

10. All of us are called to share even if we have very little. What did Jesus say about the widow in Luke 21:1-4?
11. What does Jesus encourage us to do in Matthew 5:42?

5 – Two Sides of Forgiveness

What do we pray for when we say, “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”?

We pray that God would not hold our sins against us, because if they were not forgiven, we could expect nothing but punishment.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Why does God forgive our sins?

God forgives our sins for Jesus’ sake?

“Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin in order that in union with him we might share the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21 TEV).

Is there any condition for God’s forgiveness?

No. God’s forgiveness is unconditional. But when we pray the Lord’s Prayer and do not forgive others, then we are really asking God not to forgive us, because we say, “Forgive us ... as we forgive.”

Brett and Peter were not only brothers, they were good friends. Brett was in ninth grade and Peter in seventh. Even though they would fight now and then, for the most part they would play, work, and sometimes study together.

One day they were bouncing a ball in the house and their mom asked them to stop so they wouldn't break something. They quit for a bit, but when their Mom went to the grocery store, they resumed. Then it happened; the ball bounced off a chair, struck their mom's favorite vase, and knocked it crashing to the floor.

"Why did you make such a stupid throw?" shouted Brett.

"Why didn't you catch it, you jerk!" Peter fired back. "Now look what you have done!"

"Look what I've done. You're the one who threw the ball; it's your fault," yelled Brett.

The boys quickly got the glue, put the pieces together, and hoped that their parents wouldn't notice. When their mom came home, she sensed something was wrong because both boys were quiet. Then she noticed the vase with glue oozing out of a crack. She was upset, but said nothing, waiting for one of the boys to break the news.

As the day wore on, the tension increased. The boys felt badly and blamed each other, so they went to their own rooms to be alone. They avoided their mom and also wondered what their dad might say when he came home.

Finally their feelings got the best of them. They talked it over and decided to share the blame and tell their mom about the incident.

“Mom, we broke your favorite vase,” said Peter with tears in his eyes.

“We played ball in the house when you told us not to and we accidentally hit the vase and broke it,” said Brett with a trembling voice.

“Yes, I know,” said their mom. “I not only noticed the glue and the cracks, but I could tell by the way you were acting that something was wrong.”

“We’re really sorry,” Brett apologized.

“We’ll pay for it, Mom,” Peter added.

“It really can’t be replaced. It was a gift from Aunt Mary for our wedding years ago,” replied Mom. “But I will forgive you and hope that you have learned something from this.”

The boys felt relieved. Even though the vase could not be totally repaired, their relationship with their mom and with each other had been mended. The barriers between them had been taken away. They no longer had to keep the incident a secret, resentfully blame each other, or try to deceive their mom. They were forgiven by their mom, forgave each other, and could go on with their living.

A closer look

In this story, the family relationship between the boys and their mom was disrupted. Although the broken vase appeared to be the real problem, it was much more than that. The relationship was disrupted through disobedience, blaming, and failure to assume responsibility.

The broken relationship between the boys and their mother is much like the relationship between human beings and God. People tend to follow their own ways despite the consequences of disobeying God.

When the vase broke, there was the sense of fear, panic, guilt, and regret. Peter and Brett tried to cover up the problem and thought they maybe could deceive their parents. This is like our feelings when we break our relationships with God. We tend to offer excuses to God, to try to hide, fix, or deceive.

The boys felt better when they shared with their mom what had happened and were ready to assume responsibility and be forgiven. The bridge of forgiving love had restored the relationship so that they were free from the guilt which had separated them.

When we come to God ready to be forgiven, God forgives us for our sin. It is only God who in grace can resolve the problems of sin, guilt, and separation, and justify us (make us right) through the cross.

The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean?

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.

Discussion Questions:

Reading 5: Two Sides of Forgiveness

Sin is a barrier. The Bible teaches us that the cause of the world situation is sin. Sin is a barrier which separates us from God and others. Separation from God is illustrated in the story of Adam and Eve. In Genesis 3:23-24, Adam and Eve are banished from the garden and their reentrance is blocked by the angel with the flaming sword. A barrier between them and God has been caused by sin.

1. How is separation from God illustrated in the following passages?
 - a. Isaiah 6:5

 - b. Luke 5:8

2. When we sin against each other, who do we really offend? (1 Corinthians 8:12)

3. Sin can be a barrier which causes division within ourselves. In Romans 7:15-20 Paul writes about sin and his desire to do good yet his inability to do so because of his own will. As a result of our sin we may keep it secret or within ourselves. If we do, what happens? (Psalm 32:3-4)

4. According to the Psalmist, there are no secrets from God. God knows everything. What does Jesus say about this in Luke 8:17?

5. Read Psalm 32:5. What clue does it give us about dealing with sin?

6. Our sin may take the form of resentment when we blame others for sin. For example, in the Garden of Eden, Adam blames Eve and Eve blames the serpent. Read Matthew 7:1-2 and write down what Jesus says about this.

7. At times we may try to deceive ourselves about sin. What does 1 John 1:8 say?

8. What does 1 John 1:9 suggest we do?

Jesus reunites us with God. Because we separate ourselves from God, we need to be reunited with God. God is the one who brings us back. We are brought back through Jesus and his life, death and resurrection.

9. What does John 3:16-17 say about the purpose of Jesus?

10. What does John 1:29 say?

11. Paul speaks about the work of God in Christ as overcoming the barriers and bridging the gap between us. Read Romans 8:1-2. Because of God's grace in Christ, there is no _____ and we have been set _____.

12. We are all one in Christ, with human distinctions of race, color, and gender set aside. We are a forgiven people by God in Christ. What does Ephesians 4:32 say about forgiveness?

13. What are the instructions Jesus gives his followers in Matthew 6:14-15?

This does not mean that God's forgiveness is conditional. Rather it means that if we do not forgive others, we have not understood in our hearts what it means to be forgiven by God.

14. Because of God's forgiveness, we are restored as children and full heirs of the kingdom. Through Christ we are a group of people who have been given a new life. How does Paul describe this in 2 Corinthians 5:17-21?

6 – The Time of Trial

What do we pray for when we pray, “And lead us not into temptation”?

We ask God to protect us from anything that would lead us away from God’s promises or put us at odds with our neighbors.

How can we better resist temptation (a form of trial or testing)?

We need to remain in communication with God through God’s Word and through prayer.
“Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation” (Matthew 26:41 TEV).

How does God help us when we are tempted?

By turning to God in prayer, the temptation will lose its force.

“But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out” (1 Corinthians 10:13 TEV).

Jan and Angeline were watching a television special on the horrors of nuclear war as part of their social studies assignment. The program showed the destruction and death from the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War II. The TV commentator said, "The bombs which the world powers now possess are hundreds of times more destructive. We have the capability of destroying the world several times over."

"I'm scared," said Jan. "That's awful!"

"Me too," chimed in Angeline. "It makes me wonder if we will ever have a chance to grow up!"

The girls then began talking about a conversation they had with a group of friends at school. One of the boys had said that there wasn't any hope. Someone would push a button and blow up the whole world, so he was going to do his own thing now. Several others agreed. What difference would it make if you got into trouble, when everything blows away, who will know the difference? Some said there was no point in working hard at school to prepare for life, as teachers and parents had advised, because there wasn't going to be any future anyway.

Others said that everyone needed to pitch in and work to prevent a catastrophe. Giving up hope and throwing in the towel was not the answer. Some thought that was nonsense and decided they were going to live it up no matter what!

"What do you really think, Angeline?" asked Jan.

"I don't know. I remember from my confirmation lesson last week that we are to have faith and trust in God and above all to hope in God," replied Angeline.

"So you think that's the answer?" asked Jan. "What if God has given up, or what if God doesn't even exist? With all of this craziness, I really wonder."

"It makes you question whether the kids aren't right who talk about living it up today because there won't be any tomorrow. I'm tempted to think the same way sometimes," replied Angeline.

On that somber note, they changed the channel to a new comedy series and dropped the subject.

A closer look

For many people, the nuclear threat calls into question the nature and existence of God. Some people feel that God is responsible or that God is unable to help or intervene. Such fears, concerns, and feelings of panic can be temptations which lead us from God rather than to God as our help and hope.

Other events such as tragedy, death, disease, and destruction can tempt us to call God into question. "Why doesn't God do something?" is a question often asked. Maybe it would be more helpful to ask the question "Why don't people do something about the situation we have made for ourselves?"

The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

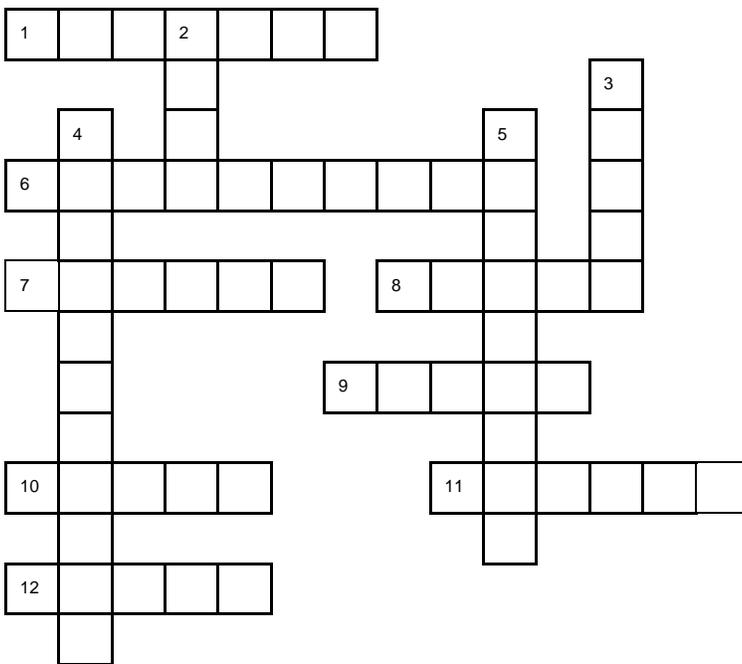
God tempts no one. We pray in the petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Discussion Questions: Reading 6: The Time of Trial

In the last session on sin and forgiveness we saw how easy it is to blame someone else for our sin. Sometimes we want to blame God for making us in such a way that we are tempted to sin. However James 1:13 makes it clear that God does not tempt anyone to sin. We must look elsewhere for the origin of temptation which leads to sin.

Work out the answer to the Bible study questions following to learn more about the petition, “And lead us not into temptation.”

The Source of Temptation. Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle. The answers all relate to the sources of temptation: the devil, the world, and our sinful self. (All passages can be read from the New International Version [NIV] of the Bible unless otherwise noted.)



NOTE: You can find different versions of the Bible on the internet at the website: www.biblegateway.com . Click on “passage look up” and enter the passage you are looking for then choose the version from the drop down menu. This will give you many different choices for Bible versions.
ESV = English Standard Version
CEV = Contemporary English Version
NKJV = New King James Version

Across

1. Sometimes the word *world* is used to designate everything which is against God. In this sense, who is behind everything of the “world”? (1 John 5:19, two words)
6. Part of the world scene. (2 Peter 1:4)
7. Satan is sometimes thought of as the _____ of the “world.” (John 12:31) [ESV, CEV or NKJV versions will have this word]
8. Who prompted Judas to betray Jesus? (Luke 22:3)

9. Who does Jesus say is the source of temptation who draws us away from God? (Luke 8:12)
10. Paul writes in Romans 13:14 about a source of temptation as being the _____ or our own desires. This does not mean our bodies or bodily needs are evil, but it has to do with the distortion or perversion of our bodies. [ESV - or check the footnote in an NIV Bible]
11. What does the word *world* mean in John 3:16-17?
12. What does Jesus say is a source of temptation? (Matthew 18:7) (“*woe to the _____*”)

Down

2. What word does Jesus use to describe the devil? (John 8:44)
3. This man was on Satan’s hit list. (Luke 22:31)
4. What vivid picture of Satan is painted in 1 Peter 5:8? (two words)
5. James 1:27 advises us to “keep oneself unstained from the world.” [ESV]

7 – The Power of Evil

What is evil?

One definition of evil consists of those powers inside us and outside of us which are in opposition to God's will and love, and which oppress people in our world.

What do we pray for when we pray, “And deliver us from evil”?

We pray that God would save us from any harm to our body or soul.

“Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me” (Psalm 50:15)

What is the greatest deliverance from evil?

When God delivers us from all evil and takes us into heaven.

“He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared” (Revelation 21:4 TEV)

The Jones family had been members of the Lutheran church and residents of the community for two years. During that time they had been plagued with many serious problems. The mother, Vivian, experienced the death of both her parents in an auto accident. A son, Bill, was suffering from leukemia and not expected to live. The father, Jack, had recently lost his job because of cutbacks in his company. The whole family was lonesome for other family members whom they had left in a distant city two years ago when they moved

The crowning blow came when some faulty wiring in their home caused a fire and destroyed most everything in the house. The family felt like a cloud of gloom was hanging over them. They wondered why this was happening to them. What evil had they done to deserve this? As a Christian family, they had been faithful at worship and work in the congregation. They had often prayed about their many problems. The petition, "Deliver us from evil" took on new meaning for them, but they wondered whether God would ever deliver them from evil.

The recent events of losing the job, Bill's illness, and now the fire confronted them with many difficult decisions. The strength of the family as well as their faith was being severely challenged.

A closer look

The previous session on temptation is a good introduction to this session on evil. Whereas temptation reveals itself in the powers which draw us away from God, evil is that which is in opposition to God and oppresses human beings. Evil takes on many forms, some very subtle and others obvious. Whatever the form, evil is a reality in our world.

The Bible is less interested in explaining the origin of evil than it is concerned with the human condition and God's rescue or redemption of people who are overcome by evil.

Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

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.

Discussion Questions:

Reading 7: The Power of Evil

The Scriptures help us to investigate the nature of evil and its meaning in our lives. Work out the answers to the Bible study questions about evil. Remember that *evil* can be defined as those powers inside us and outside of us which are in opposition to God's will and love, and which oppress people in our world.

We struggle with evil. All of us are faced with a struggle against evil in our lives.

1. Read Ephesians 6:12. What does it say about the struggle with evil?
2. Paul speaks about his personal struggle with evil in Romans 7:21-24. What does this say about the struggle within ourselves?
3. The Lord's Prayer says, "Deliver *us* from evil," not just me. There is a struggle with evil which also involves society, for example discrimination based on race, gender, or class. What does Paul say in Galatians 3:28?

Suffering in the midst of evil. The Old Testament person Job is one who suffered evil. Before he expressed his anger with God, he was willing to say that one can expect both good and evil in life.

4. What does the Psalmist say about suffering in Psalm 90:10?
5. The story of Paul and Barnabas is told in Acts 14:19-23. When they were in Lystra they were stoned because of their faith. What does Paul say (vs. 22) about tribulation?

Surrender yourself to God. God is not the source of evil, but in love, God can use evil circumstances to accomplish a loving purpose.

6. What does Jesus say in Luke 18:1 about prayer in the midst of evil?
7. Many of us like results now! Patient praying in the midst of our problems is difficult. What does Isaiah 40:31 say?
8. Surrendering to God in the midst of evil does not mean that we should do nothing to combat evil. Rather it reminds us of who is in charge and who is the source of our strength. What does Paul say about the Christians who suffer evil? (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)

Salvation is victory over evil. Salvation is *now* as well as in the future. The writer of Colossians 2:3-15 states that Christians experience salvation “now” through Christ who has forgiven our sins and conquered the powers of evil by his death on the cross. Salvation is accomplished by the grace of God in Jesus Christ who promises us a future with God. The hope of salvation now and the promise of eternal salvation gives Christians the courage to face evil in its many forms.

9. What promise is given in 2 Timothy 4:18?

10. The most powerful statement of the promise of God as being victorious over evil now and in eternity is written by Paul in Romans 8:31-39. Why do we know that God is for us and against evil? (vs. 32)

11. Romans 8:37-39 says it all! We are “conquerors,” not by ourselves, but through Christ. What is the final promise in verse 39?

8 – Responding with Amen

What is the doxology or conclusion to the Lord’s Prayer?

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Why do we say the doxology?

The doxology is a way of expressing praise and glory to God.

What does “Amen” mean?

Amen or “Yes, it shall be so” means that what we have prayed in the petitions is acceptable to God. By praying Amen we express confidence in God and in God’s ability to answer our prayer.

Stacy, Tia, and Jo had been close friends throughout their years in college. Before having to separate, they decided to share one last adventure together and climb to the summit of a nearby mountain. They made plans and preparations and soon were off on their trek.

They climbed part way up the mountain, established their base camp and settled down for the evening, chatting about their close friendship before falling off to sleep.

Bright and early the next morning they began their long climb. The terrain was rough and they had to be careful every inch of the way. Loose rock was a constant threat and one slip could mean severe injury or death. They had to rely on their ropes and gear as well as each other as they slowly scaled the huge mountain. With bumps, bruises, perspiration, straining lungs, and tired muscles, every bit of their energy was taxed on their climb.

At one point Jo said, "Maybe we ought to call it quits. It's dangerous and tough."

"Let's stick with it," said Tia, "I've done it before and I know we can do it if we keep at it."

"Let's take our time and keep our eyes fixed on our destination," said Stacy. "I'm sure we can make it."

By late afternoon the three climbers, weary and exhausted, finally reached the summit. They sat down in dazed silence as they beheld the beauty of all which was below and above them. A glorious sunset with its fading rays was glistening off the nearby rocks.

"It's breathtaking!" said Tia. "I can't find the words to describe it."

"It's beautiful," said Stacy and Jo together.

As the three shared the beauty of the scenery, and the awesome wonder of the earth and sky, they agreed that their struggle in scaling the mountain and sharing the view was a fitting celebration of their friendship.

A closer look

The doxology can also be seen as a fitting celebration. It is a celebration or conclusion of the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer. Doxology means to speak or express words of praise and glory. The Jewish custom was to end prayer with some closing words of praise to God. The doxology we use to close the Lord's Prayer was given by the early church. This particular ending was not part of the original

prayer as recorded in the Bible, but it has become an integral part of the prayer because it points to God alone as the one to receive our prayers and praise.

The Conclusion

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean?

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. Amen, amen means "yes, yes, it shall be so."

Discussion Questions:

Reading 8: Responding with Amen

Celebrate with praise. The doxology was not a part of the Lord's Prayer as it was given to us by Jesus, but was a later addition by the early church.

1. Read 1 Chronicles 29:11. How does it compare with the doxology or closing of the Lord's Prayer?

Amen. The last word of the Lord's Prayer is Amen. It is a Hebrew word which means to support or be firm, true, or reliable. Often it is used in both the Old and New Testament as an exclamation in worship meaning "truly" or "surely." By saying Amen, one lends agreement to what has been said.

2. In the New Testament, who is called "the Amen" in Revelation 3:14? _____
Why?
3. What is Paul saying Amen to in Romans 11:33-36?

The early church fittingly placed the doxology at the end of the Lord's Prayer as a final word about the God to whom we address our prayers and praise.