

# LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

## WEEK 5: JESUS TAUGHT OTHERS TO PRAY

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### SCRIPTURE: LUKE 11:1-4

*Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."*

### REFLECTION

What is your first memory of prayer? Maybe it was hearing people pray in a church. Maybe you first remember praying at home. Wherever it was, it probably felt a little odd talking to someone who you couldn't even see. More likely than not, your first experience with prayer involved at least one other person; a parent, grandparent, pastor, or friend. When we pray with the caring people in our lives, together we learn ways to connect with God.

In our story from Luke this week, Jesus was praying. This time, the Bible tells us that Jesus' disciples must have been watching him pray. What they saw got their attention because when he finished praying, the disciples asked Jesus to help them learn to pray. They wanted to know how to pray in a way that God would feel near to them.

Jesus responds by teaching them what we now know as "The Lord's Prayer." What does the prayer include? This prayer teaches us to say happy and joyful things to God (called praise) and to say out loud that we know that God takes care of us. The prayer also teaches us to ask God to give us the things we need, teaches us to say sorry for our mistakes and to forgive others who might do mean things to us. Finally, the prayer teaches us to ask God to be with us in good and hard times.

Why do you think the Lord's Prayer continues to be important for us today? Think of the many things we learn to do over the course of our lives. We learn how to walk, talk, dress ourselves, read, play games, and so much more. With any of these activities, we had others help us learn how to do each thing. The same is true with prayer. Jesus provided us with one way to pray. After learning the basics from our family of faith, we are able to find new ways to pray to God through music, art, song, dance, poetry, and ways we haven't even discovered yet. And through that growth, we have the opportunity to share our prayers with others as Jesus did with us.

## DISCUSSION

As you color the coloring page, ponder these questions together:

- How did you learn to pray? When was the first time you prayed out loud? When was the first time you prayed by yourself?
- Is prayer something that was easy for you to learn? Why or why not?
- Who are some people in your life who help you pray?

## ACTIVITY

*Supplies needed: This week's activity page, paper, markers/crayons/pencils, craft supplies, scissors, staples or other fasteners*

This week we invite you to make a Lord's Prayer booklet and try to memorize the Lord's Prayer by the end of the week.

First, take several pieces of paper. Color and cut out each phrase of the prayer from the activity page. Then take one phrase and glue it onto one of your papers. Repeat until you have glued all the phrases to the different pages. Then as a family, use your creativity to draw/paste/cut/craft a visual picture of what you think the phrase looks like and means to you. When you are done with all of the pages, take a stapler or other kind of fastener (like string) and make the pages into a booklet. Each evening read and pray the booklet together.

# PRAYER

*This week, practice The Lord's Prayer as a family, committing it to memory if time allows.*

Loving God,  
Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come  
Thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
**Amen.**