

# LIFEgroup questions

March 1, 2015 **Matthew 6:9-13**

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*The Lord's Prayer was not intended to just be a rote exercise, as if there is some special power just in the words without considering the meaning. But it is a great guide for seeing how God desires for us to pray to Him. Take this week and try to pray—in your own words—through the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) as a grid. Feel free to look up other passages that help you pray informed. You can either pray through the entire page each day, or you may want to focus on a particular section each day and work through the sheet over the course of the week.*

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**Prayer is work.** It takes effort for us to rest in God's working rather than just trying to fix everything ourselves. This exercise will probably feel awkward and difficult to most (if not all). That's ok too. All growth pretty much means a level of discomfort. Also, there is a grace to realized that God hears our prayers not because we've nailed praying rightly, but because He is gracious! Even if people struggled this week and feel like they failed, encourage them that they spent the week thinking about prayer more than they usually would....and that's a win!

1. **Our Father...** (Express to God how your relationship with God is different because of the work of Christ. How has the gospel effected our ability to pray, and how should it impact the words of our prayer.)
2. **Who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.** (Take time to express to God His unique nature. Praise God for who He is!)
3. **Your kingdom come, you will be done on earth as it is in heaven...** (Express to God His sovereign rule. Remind yourself of how God's will is perfectly fulfilled in heaven. Submit yourself again to his rule here on earth as well.)
4. **Give us this day our daily bread.** (Remind yourself that all provision comes from Him. Praise Him that He gives what we need, when we need it. What needs are you aware of that you could express to Him.)
5. **Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.** (Remind yourself again of your need of forgiveness. Do you know of sins you need to confess? Are there others you need God to help you express grace toward?)
6. **And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.** (Where do you find yourself most tempted to give into sin? Confess to God where you see yourself weak and vulnerable.)
7. **For yours is the kingdom and power and glory forever, amen.** (Take time to confess to God that even if He does not answer your prayer the way you would want, He will answer it in a way that is good for you and brings Him glory.)

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*This may seem difficult to imagine how a short prayer could take up an entire LIFEgroup. But if you take prayer requests first, then possibly divide into smaller groups within your LIFEgroup or pray over all the different aspects, you'll be surprised how the time will move!*

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**In the beginning** a study of all things new