

THE BOOK OF LUKE SERIES
STUDY TWENTY (LUKE 11:3-4, MATTHEW 6:11-13)
THE LORD'S PRAYER, PART 3: THE PETITIONS FOR PEOPLE
JUNE 1, 2008

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 11:9, "And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

INTRODUCTION

We have looked at the nature of God as our Father and as the holy Creator of the universe, and we have looked at how we can praise Him properly in our prayers by seeking His will first. This week we look at our requests of God. The remainder of the Lord's Prayer in both Luke and Matthew deals with our desire for God to sustain us, to forgive us for our sins, and to help us in avoiding future sin. Asking God to provide us with bread each day is about more than satisfying our physical hunger. We are called to rely on God in every aspect of our lives. Our spirit is just as dependent on God as our physical bodies are dependent on food - we need both to survive.

When we ask God to forgive our debts, we are talking about our sins against Him. We need to examine our lives, and then ask God to help us discern our sins so that we can confess them to Him. One of the differences between our sins as believers and the sins of non-believers is that we are given knowledge that we are sinning. We are then called to confess our sins and repent. God promises to forgive those who are repentant. We must also forgive those who have sinned against us. Jesus teaches the disciples to ask God to keep them from temptation and deliver them from evil. Remember that God does not tempt us. This request is so that we recognize that without God's intervention, we are likely to succumb to temptation and sin. Likewise, God is the only true protection we have against evil; it is upon Him alone that we should rely.

Notice also that Jesus instructs us to pray as a corporate body: "Give us... forgive us... lead us not..." There is no room for self-centeredness in our prayers. We cannot pray that God satisfies our needs but neglect to pray for the needs of our brother, sister or neighbor. As we conclude our study of the Lord's Prayer, remember that although Jesus has provided us with a guide for prayer, it is not a checklist for us to run through before we go on to something else. God desires for our hearts to be in the right place, recognizing His glory and His love for us and responding with true remorse for our sins and reliance on Jesus as our Savior. Prayer is the best opportunity to develop a deeper appreciation for God and strengthen our relationship with Him

LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD

1. What keeps us from relying on God for the basic necessities of life? Is there something about life in America that makes this difficult? Read Matthew 6:25-34. What is the lesson of this passage?
2. Read Exodus 16:1-30. What does this account tell you about how God responds to our needs? How do some people respond to God's provisions?
3. Why does God want us to confess our sins? What do the following verses say about sin and God's answer to our sin? Numbers 5:5-7, Psalm 32:5, John 1:29, Romans 6:1-2, and 1 John 1:7.
4. Read the parable Jesus spoke in Matthew 18:21-35. What does it tell us about our need to forgive others who have sinned against us? Why do you think it is important for us to forgive those who have wronged us?
5. James 1:13 tells us that God tempts no one. Who or what does tempt us? How do we resist these temptations?

OUR WALK WITH GOD

1. Is it easier or harder to forgive others when we are aware of God's forgiveness of our sins? Is there someone in your life that you have had trouble forgiving? What would it take to forgive that person like God has forgiven you?
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to "[P]ray without ceasing." What are some roadblocks to prayer in your life? What can you do to remove them? List a few reasons why prayer is so important in your life.
3. Look back at the Lord's Prayer offered by Jesus in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Do you believe whole-heartedly in the assertions of the prayer? Are you ready to trust in God to provide for your needs and protect you? Examine the topics of the Lord's Prayer and see what areas you need to work on to strengthen your relationship with God.

GOING DEEPER

How do the following verses further highlight our need to forgive others? (Matthew 6:14-15, Mark 11:25, Luke 6:37, Ephesians 4:32, and Colossians 3:12-13.) What does true forgiveness of others involve? What does Psalm 103:12 say about what God does when He forgives us? Are we called to do the same?

SERVING AND BEING SERVED

When you close your small group meeting in prayer tonight, thank God collectively for all that he has provided to you as a group. Acknowledge that we still succumb to sin in our lives and ask God to forgive you *as a group*. Finally, pray to God for strength in overcoming temptations around you. Commit to keep in contact with your small group members throughout the summer to encourage them to pray constantly to God for these things.

SUGGESTED SMALL GROUP STUDY FORMAT
"THE LORD'S PRAYER, PART 3: THE PETITIONS FOR PEOPLE"
STUDY TWENTY - MAY 25, 2008

CONNECT25 MINUTES

Time of Fellowship

Opening Prayer

Icebreaker Questions:

1. What are some examples of daily bread?
2. In the past week, what have been some of your temptations? (eg. icecream, sleeping in, shopping, watching TV)

MEMORY VERSE (Memorize and say aloud in your group)5 MINUTES

Luke 11:9, "And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 35 MINUTES

PRAYER AND PERSONAL SHARING30 MINUTES

1. As a small group, commit to encourage one another and hold each other accountable to develop a greater dependency on God in *all* areas of life.
2. Continue to pray for the leadership of RCC as they seek direction and guidance from the Lord regarding the future of our church.
3. Pray for the personal needs of one another in your small group