

4. **Dependence (v. 11)**

*Give us today the food we need.*

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. **Psalm 145:15–16 (NIV)**

“I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day.” **Exodus 16:4 (NIV)**

I am the bread of life. **John 6:48 (NIV)**

5. **Reconciliation (v. 12, 14)**

*Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. **Psalm 51:1 (NIV)**

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. **Psalm 130:4 (NIV)**

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **Colossians 3:13 (NIV)**

6. **Protection (v. 13)**

*Don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.*

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. **Psalm 27:5 (NIV)**

Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. **Psalm 31:3–4 (NIV)**

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **Ephesians 6:13 (NIV)**

**NOTES:**

# THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF GOD'S AMAZING LOVE

## ACT 3: THE FULFILLMENT

### LEARNING TO PRAY

■ *Don't be like the hypocrites* ■ *In private* ■ *Don't babble on*

#### Themes of prayer

1. **Intimacy (v. 5-9)**

*Our Father in heaven.*

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. **Psalm 103:13 (NIV)**

The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. **Psalm 11:4 (NIV)**

“Abba, Father.” **Romans 8:15 (NIV)**

2. **Reverence (v. 9)**

*May your name be kept holy.*

Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness. **Psalm 115:1 (NIV)**

Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy. **Psalm 99:5 (NIV)**

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth. **Philippians 2:9–10 (NIV)**

3. **Surrender (v. 10)**

*May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*

The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. **Psalm 103:19 (NIV)**

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. **Psalm 145:13 (NIV)**

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” **Luke 22:42 (NIV)**

(continued on the back page)

February 2, 2020

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS—WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2, 2020**  
**THE FULFILLMENT—LEARNING TO PRAY**

**CONNECT**

- Reflecting on your childhood, is there a particular prayer you remember hearing or saying?

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE:** *Reflection on the Lord's Prayer*

This is an opportunity to put into practice the spiritual disciplines that Jesus taught and practiced. Our intention is to engage in a familiar prayer in a fresh way by responding to it as a guide for our own prayers, responding to each phrase as an invitation to be specific and personal. Read the instructions and assign three readers before you begin. For each phrase of the Lord's Prayer, follow this pattern:

**Leader:** Read one line of the Lord's Prayer aloud (starting with #1 and moving through #6).

**Readers:** Each reader reads one of the passages beneath the phrase found in the bulletin.

**Leader:** Read the prayer suggestions in parenthesis.

**Pause (allow 2 minutes):** The group will respond by journaling their own prayers.

**Prepare:** Read the prayer that Jesus taught the people from Matthew 6:9-13 aloud together. Speak slowly to let the words resonate and become your own.

**1. Our Father in heaven (Intimacy)**

(Write a prayer of praise and adoration to our God as Father, expressing your desire for a closer relationship with his son, Jesus.)

**2. May your name be kept holy (Reverence)**

(Write a prayer that reflects your awareness of your own weakness and of God's power.)

**3. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven (Surrender)**

(Write a prayer expressing your desire to see God's purposes fulfilled in your life and in the world. Reflect on your willingness to surrender your will and to desire only God's will, as much as you are able.)

**4. Give us today the food we need (Dependence)**

(Write a prayer for your needs and the needs of others, recognizing God as the provider and sustainer of all things.)

**5. Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. (Reconciliation)**

(Write a prayer asking for God's forgiveness for the wrong you have done, for God's protection and generosity toward those who have hurt you, and for eyes to see and love all people as God sees and loves all people.)

(SCRIPTURE REFLECTION continued)

**6. Don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. (Protection)**

(Write a prayer asking God to reveal any barriers in your relationship with God or others and for the will to resist any sinful desires that may lead you away from God.)

**Close your prayer time by reciting the closing phrase together:**

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**Group Sharing:** How did it feel to respond to the Lord's Prayer in your own words? What did it stir in you?

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:** *Questions to stimulate discussion*

Read Matthew 6:5-15 aloud. What stood out to you from this week's passage or message?

Imagine you are in the crowd as Jesus teaches this passage. How would you feel hearing his words? What part of his teaching would resonate with you? Where might you feel resistance?

What do you think is the primary thing Jesus wants to make clear to his listeners? When used rightly, what is the value of religious or spiritual disciplines? In what way can they be misused? What are the dangers of hypocrisy in our personal lives or in the church?

Would you say your prayers usually reflect your own will or that you are seeking God's will? How can you tell the difference? What do you expect or hope will happen when you pray, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"?

What did the followers of Jesus know for certain about God from the prayer Jesus taught them?

Which of the six themes of prayer (see outline) is easier for you to pray? Which is more difficult? What could you change so that your prayer practices deepen your relationship with Jesus?

**PRAYER and BENEDICTION:** *Share current joys, hopes, or challenges*

**Pray for one another:** Seek to desire God's will in your lives and in the world.

**Closing Benediction:** (From Psalm 145)

*We will praise you, our God. We will praise your name forever and ever. Every day we will praise you and extol your name forever and ever. The Lord is gracious and compassionate; slow to anger and rich in love. We believe that yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever! AMEN*

**DAILY PRACTICE:**

Continue to spend time with God daily (see Reading Plan or APP). For this week, consider pausing three times a day, closing your eyes to say the Lord's Prayer slowly.