



HORIZON
WHERE HEAVEN AND EARTH MEET

Lesson 1: "This Is How You Pray"

CLASS PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW: Prayer is a common practice within Christianity, but we don't always know how or what to pray for. Jesus addresses this very topic in the Sermon on The Mount. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus offers the blueprint for how we should communicate with God. Prayer is a gift from God; the Lord's prayer is how we use that gift.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:5-8

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES: John 17, Romans 8:26, The Psalms

LESSON

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Attaching Different Meanings to Songs

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMmN8Ablo5s&t=2433s>) Watch from the beginning to 00:11:00.

- Examples of other songs: Neil Diamond's Sweet Caroline and Baseball, September by Earth, Wind, And Fire and Trolls, Bohemian Rhapsody and Wayne's World.
- There are certain songs that we can attach a different meaning than the original artist intended the song to have. A similar thing has happened with The Lord's prayer. This prayer that Jesus probably intended us to follow closely has gained different meanings.

TEACHING POINT(S):

1. The Lord's prayer is a proactive, not reactive way to prayer.
2. Prayer is a gift from God; The Lord's prayer is how we use that gift.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What are some ways that we make prayer more complicated than it needs to be? What do you think the reason for that is?
- Ask someone in the group to read Matthew 6:5-8. Jesus called people who pray like this "hypocrites." What about the people Jesus describes seems hypocritical?
- Ask someone in the group to read Matthew 6:9-13. If you were to try to break down Jesus' prayer into its basic parts or chunks, what are the main things Jesus said?
- What are some ways that we as a group can help encourage each other to pray simple prayers on a regular basis? What are some simple prayers that we can pray for each other right now?

LIVING IT OUT:

Learning to have a proactive posture to prayer, instead of a reactive posture to prayer can transform the way we communicate and interact with God, and can ultimately transform our prayer life.



Lesson 2: "Recognition"

CLASS PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW: Often our view of God is a depiction of an old grumpy man far away or a distant being in the clouds. The first part of the Lord's prayer is about recognizing who it is we are praying to. The Lord's prayer helps us view God The Father, through the lens of Jesus the Son. The Father is revealed to us through the Son. Through the Son, the concerns of the Father become clear to us.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:9

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES: John 14:6-7, Matthew 3:17

LESSON

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Children's drawing of animals (Here's an example)

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1il2Jog_aYLJKKaXRMMIKlaoyXvECPRJ1MI-ezo7uGQ/edit?usp=sharing

This is a fun activity to illustrate how our perception of something affects how we illustrate it to others.

TEACHING POINT(S):

1. We must view God the Father, Through the lens of Jesus the Son.
2. When the Father is revealed to us through the Son, then the concerns of the Father become clear to us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How often does your view of God change? What do you think brings about those changes?
- How does your view of God impact your relationship with God?
- How can your view of God impact the way you view yourself or how you think God views you?
- Read Matthew 6:9 & John 14:6-7. What's the significance of Jesus addressing God as Father? What does this tell us about their relationship? What does it tell us about our own relationship with God?
- How would starting your day with acknowledging God as Father impact your day?

LIVING IT OUT:

Being able to see God the Father through the lens of His son Jesus Christ orients us to be able to see God the same way that Jesus did. The way in which we view God, and how we believe God views us can be one of the most impactful factors in shaping how we live out God's will.



Lesson 3: “On Earth As It Is In Heaven”

CLASS PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW: Christ models the importance of submission to God's will, and speaking to Him in a way that acknowledges it. Praying for what God wants to happen is to accept that His plan is right and good for everyone. Jesus is praying for the coming of God's kingdom and the fulfillment of His will, in all places and all times. To pray this in sincerity is to ask God for the very thing Jesus was going to accomplish: bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth at some point in the future.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:10: Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES:

- Matthew 6:33, Romans 14:17, Matthew 5:3, Matthew 5:10

LESSON

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IpJTOIfXuyc>

- An Interesting illustration of what happens when God's will is at the center of our lives.

TEACHING POINT(S):

1. We should seek first His kingdom
2. Let go of our own will and pursue His

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- In what ways do you seek your own will or kingdom?
- How can you begin to let go of your own will and pursue God's will?
- What will life be like when God's will is done on earth?
- What would it look like to give all of yourself to God's plan – to build His Kingdom instead of your own?
- What is the one part of your will that you're most afraid to relinquish to God?

LIVING IT OUT:

We should be seeking God's will over our own. We need to learn to trust in His plans for us and give up our desire to control our lives. Learn to let go and trust in God.



HORIZON
WHERE HEAVEN AND EARTH MEET

Lesson 4: "Daily Bread"

CLASS PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW: Jesus did not instruct His followers to pray for a one-time permanent solution to their daily needs. He did not tell believers to ask for enough money to forever guarantee they could feed their families for days or weeks or years. The point Jesus makes here is to pray in dependence on the Father; to ask Him to meet the needs of each day. In doing so, He destroyed any idea that believers should be mostly self-reliant, checking in with God only when faced with a critical need. Instead, Jesus showed clearly that every child of God must be God-reliant for every need on every day

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:11

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES:

- John 6:35, Matthew 26:26, John 6:33

LESSON

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:

<https://www.creativeyouthideas.com/resources/creative-teaching-ideas/relying-on-gods-strength/>

- A group activity about trusting God

TEACHING POINT(S):

1. We must rely on God for our most basic needs
2. Jesus is the bread of life

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why does Jesus use the term bread here? Is He referring to physical bread?
- What is the significance of asking for our daily bread?
- In what ways can you be more dependent on God?
- Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." Give some specific examples for connecting "our daily bread" with Jesus Himself as the Bread of Life.

LIVING IT OUT:

We should pray every day for God to provide for our daily needs. Not just a one-time prayer or a prayer in our darkest moments. Whether we choose to acknowledge it or not, we are reliant on God for all things at all times. Every good gift we receive comes from Him and not from ourselves (James 1:17). The prayer for our daily bread is the humble expression that we understand it to be true.



HORIZON

WHERE HEAVEN AND EARTH MEET

Lesson 5: "Forgiveness"

CLASS PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW: Sin, like debt, is something that needs to be forgiven to restore balance within Christ's body. Sin is seen as a burden or stain that requires forgiveness, much like a debt that needs to be paid off. Faith and confession in Jesus grant forgiveness and salvation. The metaphor of sin as debt is suggested and reflected in Jesus' teachings on fairness and forgiveness throughout his ministry. The passage (Mt. 6:12) emphasizes the importance of generosity and fairness in community interactions, highlighting Jesus' call to confront injustice while promoting forgiveness and reconciliation.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:12 (NRSV), "and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES:

- Mt. 6:14-15, Lk. 11:4, Mt. 6:19-21, Rom. 10:9-11, Mt. 5:42, Lk 4:18-19, Mt. 20:1-15, Hb 2:6, Mt. 18:23-35, Eph. 4:25-32, Col. 2: 13-14

LESSON

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Read the children's book *God's Dream* by Desmond Tutu ([audio reading](#)). Make the connection that God's dream is a Christian community of love and forgiveness.

TEACHING POINT(S):

1. Within the body of Christ (amongst the Christian community) sin, like debt, is something that needs to be forgiven to restore balance.
2. Forgiveness of sin is the very nature of Jesus' death on the cross.
3. Confronting injustice—fighting for those who can't—invites others to take part in the restorative power of forgiveness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How can thinking about our sins and debt within our community help us grow closer to God, and further appreciate the forgiveness that he unconditionally grants us?
- When you hear Mt. 6:12 who comes to mind? Who did you need to forgive? Who do you need forgiveness from?
- Who can you fight and advocate for? What injustice do you see in your immediate community/the world that is hindering yourself and others from participating in building God's Kingdom?

LIVING IT OUT: Though we are saved through our faith in Christ, to further build the kingdom and bring moments of heaven on earth we are called to have a heart of forgiveness. It is our job to seek those who have done us wrong and be reconciled. Further, we must stand up and speak out, like Jesus did, for those who are unable; to be an advocate for change and restorative justice.



Lesson 6: "Deliverance"

CLASS PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW: Trial can have two meanings, "temptation" and "test." Testing can lead to temptation, and temptations can lead to tests. We can see how the terms intertwine by looking at the life of Jesus, such as his temptation in the wilderness and interactions with Jewish leaders. Furthermore, Satan, "the evil one" (whether metaphorical or literal) symbolizes the very nature of temptation—defeating it/him, overcoming temptations/tests, demonstrates one righteousness. The battle between humanity and evil can be seen in the story of The Fall, the book of Job, and Jesus' interactions with Judas. Deliverance (meaning faith/wisdom) can be achieved by following the example of Jesus, who doesn't ask of his disciples anything he does not already ask of himself.

*Accepting, proclaiming, and following God—participating in the building of the kingdom of heaven—is the best practice for defeating temptation and experiencing deliverance.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:13 (NRSV), "And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one."

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES:

- Mt. 7:13-14, Mt. 4:1-3, Mt 16:1-4, 19:3, 22:17-18, 34-40, Mt. 26:41, Jas. 1:2-4, Jas. 1:13-15, Gn. 22:1, Gn. 3, Jb. 1:6-22, Mt. 16:21-23, Lk 22:3, Jn. 13:27

LESSON

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Work through many of the provided *secondary scriptures* and identify if the characters are experiencing temptation, trials, and/or tests. Discuss the similarities and differences of these experiences.

TEACHING POINT(S): Temptation, trials, and tests all have positives and negatives. They can pull us away from God, but can also bring us closer to God.

The "evil one" symbolizes the very nature of temptation. God allows us to be tempted, as he knows that defeating and overcoming it leads to deliverance, in other words, produces faith and wisdom.

We can gain deliverance by following the example of Jesus, as he never asked of his disciples anything he does not already ask of himself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How can seeing the positive and negative effects of temptation help us seek God more intentionally?
- Thinking about the trials and temptations that you're facing in your life, how can you experience enduring faith and wisdom by following the examples of Jesus?

- Think about the Mt. 6:13 with and without the ending ("For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.") as seen in other manuscripts. How does this amplify the main part of the verse and the idea of deliverance?

LIVING IT OUT: Deliverance can be obtained through living the life that God calls us to live—the life Jesus gave to us as an example. Building an enduring faith through overcoming the trials that have come before us, and gaining wisdom from those that we have already passed. God's kingdom, glory, and power last forever; we have been invited to participate in what he is doing.