



# Introduction

Welcome everyone to the Lord's Prayer. It is the joy of the Jesus-follower to have a direct line to God in the form of prayer. Through our prayers, we can ask God, praise God, confess to God, and thank God. God invites us to come directly to him as though we were a child climbing into the lap of our loving, caring, attentive dad. He promises to hear us and respond to us. Prayer is a tremendous privilege not given to everyone.

The Lord's Prayer is a sort of hub for all things having to do with prayer. Through it, Jesus teaches us what to say when we pray, he shows us who should pray to him, how we should pray, and calls us to regular prayer. There is more than meets the eye in this short and simple prayer. I'm excited to dig into it with you over the next several modules!

By the time we are done studying the Lord's prayer, you will:

1. Be able to say and explain the Lord's Prayer
2. Have a family prayer book based on the Lord's Prayer
3. Use the Lord's Prayers and other templates to write and say your own prayers
4. Appreciate the gift of prayer

With all that said, it's time to jump in!

Pst... Mom/Dad,

Here are a couple of notes just for you. Prayer is not just a topic to be studied, it is a habit to be adopted and embraced. Prayer has the power to fundamentally change the trajectory of any given person's walk of faith. Prayer centers the heart and mind on the will of God, it has the power to change the mind of God, and it unites believers who pray together. With all that in mind, please remember a few things:

- Your kids will struggle to have a consistent and robust prayer life if they don't see you praying often. If your prayer life is not what you would like it to be, be open about that with your kids and use this as an opportunity to form a new habit.
- Read for yourself the section in Luther's Large Catechism on the Lord's Prayer (pg. 97-125).
- For great additional reading, check out "A Simple Way to Pray" by Martin Luther. You can find it at:  
<https://wmpl.org/filed/resources/public/Literature/ASimpleWaytoPray.pdf>
- There are many places in this module where you are asked to open your Catechism. That's the dark blue book, *Luther's Catechism*, that we asked you to get when you started this program. If you don't already have one, go to <http://www.nph.net> and order one.

If prayer has not been a regular part of your habits, confess that to your Savior. He has forgiven that and has already made you part of his family. Be at peace in that forgiveness. Move forward in that peace. Enjoy this module and feel no guilt.

# Introduction to Prayer

## Dive in

In *Luther's Catechism* (the dark blue catechism book we asked you to buy), read pgs. 236-242 together as a family. Among your family share two "aha" moments - things you learned or appreciated in a new way from these pages.

## Memory Treasure

Memorize **Matthew 6:7-13**.

## \*Take it Home\*

Throughout these Lord's Prayer modules, you will be learning all about prayer and how to pray. Some of your exercises will require you to write your own prayers (don't worry, you'll have plenty of guidance).

Highlight the "Take it Home" sections (marked off by the double asterisks). Rewrite those prayers either on a whole different set of blank pages or type them up and print them all together. By the end of this module, your family will have their very own prayer book. But don't let the praying stop there, keep writing your own prayers and praying them together!

To get started on this assignment, start by having each person (Mom/Dad, that means you, too) **write a prayer of at least 150 words**. Make this prayer a thank you letter to God. You can thank God for something going on in your life, for a particular person, for whatever you want!

# Our Father in Heaven

What a powerful way to start a prayer! In this module, we are going to stop and think about this phrase all by itself. What was Jesus teaching when he taught his disciples to begin their prayers in this way? What comfort does it bring to know that we are praying to our Father who reigns in heaven? What do you make of this phrase if "father" hasn't always had the best meaning for you?

Here are our goals:

1. Understand how important God's name is
2. Explain the relationship between God and his people
3. Practice writing our own prayers using the template of the Lord's Prayer.

## Make it Yours

God's name tells us something about himself. He reveals many names by which we can call him. You are going to create a word cloud of those names. You can print it off and stick it right here in your binder so that you can look at it in the future. Here's an example of what it might look like:



### Your steps for creation:

1. Make a document where you will list as many names of God as you can remember (feel free to do a google search for help). Your list should include at least 25 names for God.
2. Open [WordArt.com](https://wordart.com) (or another word cloud generator) and upload your document.
3. Generate a word cloud.
4. Play around with the image. Be creative and make it your own!
5. Download the image.
6. Upload the image into this assignment.
7. You are done!

## Family In the Word

Let's go back to the Old Testament to better understand the Bible's emphasis on the Father image. As a family, read for your devotions Genesis 15, 17, and 21 (it's okay if you take it in pieces over the whole week). Wrestle with these questions:

- What does it mean to Abraham to be a father?
- What attitude do you see in God as he makes promises to Abraham and then keeps them?
- What does it mean to know that the God who kept his promises to Abraham has made promises to you?

## Dive In

Open your Catechism to **pg. 243** and read the red box at the top of the page (The Address and Luther's explanation).

Discuss with your family: What are some reasons it is important to know that we have been INVITED into prayer with God?

## Family in the Word

As a family, read Psalm 103 together. Have each member of your family highlight their favorite passage in each other's Bibles.

## \*Take it Home\*

Mom/Dad and Student,

Write a prayer using as many names for God as you can. See the example below:

Lord in heaven,

You alone are Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are the light of life that shines in the dark places. You have saved me by becoming the Lamb of God. Be my rock and refuge even in difficult times. Remind me that you are my Savior as I reflect your grace to those around me. Amen

## Memory Treasure

Memorize Isaiah 43:1-2

# Hallowed Be Your Name

"Hallowed be your name"

That's not a very common word, "hallow." It simply means "to be made holy," which is a little surprising, since God's name is already holy. He doesn't need us to pray that it would be so. But, as Luther explains, we ask God that we would keep it holy in every part of our lives. That's a tall order! Let's dig in and see how we might do that.

Here are our goals:

1. Define "Holy"
2. Identify parts of everyday life where we can keep God's name holy

## Dive In

In your Catechism, read the red box at the top of **pg. 248** (First petition and Luther's explanation).

Family discussion: What's one thing each person can do in the next couple of days to keep God's name holy?

## Family In the Word

Read Jesus' prayer in John 17.

Discuss with your family your response to Jesus' prayer in verse 20, "I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message..." What does it mean to you that Jesus prayed for you?

## Dive In

In your Catechism, read **Q. 254** as a family (together with its passages). As a family, make a list of reasons why the name of God is so important.

## Worship Together

Search YouTube for “Is He Worthy” by Andrew Peterson and “What a Beautiful Name/Agnus Dei” by Travis Cottrell.

What struck you about the two videos? Share your thoughts with your family.

## \*Take it Home\*

Your family should work together to write a prayer asking God for help. Let it begin:

Risen LORD Jesus, help us...



# Your Kingdom Come

"Your Kingdom Come"

Kings. Kingdoms. They seem so far away, yet so close. Every action, every choice, every word builds one of two kingdoms: God's or ours. Let's dig into this petition to better understand what it means to pray for the coming of God's Kingdom.

Here are our goals:

1. Understand and explain the kingdom of God
2. Brainstorm some ways that we can live in God's kingdom now

## Dig In

In your Catechism, read the red box on the top of **pg. 254** (Second petition and Luther's Explanation).

Write 100 words putting the explanation into your own words.

## Family in the Word

Read Ephesians 6:10-20 as a family. List two things that stand out to you.

## Dig In

In your Catechism, read **Q. 262** and its passages.

As a family discuss: What can we do to bring God's kingdom today? This week? This month?

## \*Take it Home\*

Read Ephesians 6:10-20 as a family. Write a family prayer based on these verses.

## Memory Treasure

Memorize **Matthew 28:18-20**.

# Your Will Be Done on Earth as in Heaven

What is God's will? Some people spend their whole lives searching for the answer to that question. Is it really so hard to figure out? Is there any way for us to be part of that will, such that we can be the answer to this prayer by carrying out God's will in His world?

Here are our goals:

1. Explain God's will as he reveals it
2. Discover God's will in and for our lives through the lens of the Bible

## Dig In

In your Catechism, read the red box on the top of **pg. 260** (the Third Petition and Luther's Explanation).

Draw a cartoon, write a poem, or write a story about resisting the devil.

## Dig In & Memory Treasure

As a family, read through **Q. 264** in your catechism. Choose one of the passages in that answer and memorize it.

## \*Take it Home\*

As a family, read through the Third Petition again. Use it and the passages in this section of the catechism and **craft a family purpose statement**. Make it memorable and to the point. Consider making this something you put on the wall or write on the family calendar.

Some things to consider:

- Favorite passages from this section
- Where God has placed you in both time and place
- The size, activities, and hobbies of your family

Some examples:

- The Smiths strive to bring God glory and love other people through sports, school, and community.
- The Johnsons keep their thoughts on things above while being the hands and feet of Jesus at our school and work.
- The Wilsons take every opportunity to worship God and share his love.

**Write a prayer** asking God to help you accomplish his will through your family mission.

**\*Take it Home\***

Write a prayer with four short paragraphs. Use ACTS as your guide.

1. Adoration (Praise)
2. Confession (Admit sins to God)
3. Thanksgiving (Giving thanks)
4. Supplication (Making requests)

Write one paragraph for each letter. Submit your prayer below.

A:

C:

T:

S:

# Give Us Today Our Daily Bread

“Our daily bread” seems like a strange thing to ask for, doesn’t it? Wouldn’t we rather ask God, “Give us everything we need to get through this life”? But Jesus encourages us to ask only for what we need for today. Why? As we explore this part of the Lord’s Prayer, we’ll better understand what it means to trust God day by day.

Here are **our goals**:

1. Understand what Jesus wants us to pray for in this petition
2. Pray boldly for daily needs
3. Strive for the biblical ideal of contentment

## Dig In

Read Luther's explanation of this petition on the top of **pg. 267** in your Catechism.

Your family's assignment is to list what you need for daily life. Start with everything you have and use on a daily basis. Cross out anything that isn't absolutely necessary. **Discuss as a family:** how do you respond to God as you look at your list?

## Memory Treasure

Memorize **Psalm 145:15-16**. Use it three times a week for the next month as your family dinner prayer.

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.

## Family in the Word

Read Exodus 16 & 17 as a family. As you read these chapters, **discuss**, as a family, this statement: **God always provides what he knows I need and not what I think I need.**

## \*Take it Home\*

Rewrite **Proverbs 30:8-9** in your own words. Write it as a prayer of your own.

# Forgive Us Our Sins, as We Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us

"How many times should I forgive?" Jesus' disciples asked the question, so do we. How can any one person find it in their heart to forgive the sins of someone else? Simple: through the forgiveness we have in Christ.

Here are our goals for this module:

1. Describe what forgiveness is
2. Memorize at least one passage about God's forgiveness in Christ
3. Summarize God's forgiveness for us

## Dig In

Read Luther's explanation of this petition on the top of **pg. 273** in your Catechism.

With your family, have each person talk about a time when it was really hard to forgive someone. What did you do?

## Respond



This is one way to picture what Jesus did for us at the cross.

Your assignment is to write a letter to Jesus in response to the picture and the passage. Feel free to write the letter as prose or poetry. Or maybe you want to respond with your own drawing, feel free to do so.

## Memory Treasure

Memorize **Matthew 11:28-30**. Create a poster around this passage. It can be drawings, a collage, or other artistic endeavor.

## Family in the Word (Optional)

Search YouTube for “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” by the band Koine. Watch it several times together as a family over the next week. Discuss: What stands out to you? What words most stick with you?

## \*Take it Home\*

Write a prayer on behalf of someone else: family member, school mate, friend, neighbor. Write out your requests on their behalf.

# Lead Us Not Into Temptation

God and evil. It's a question that has been asked for more than 1500 years in the Christian church. Can a good God allow or even cause evil? The question hits home when I consider the evil I'm tempted toward and fall into: anger, disrespect, gossip, carelessness, and the list could go on and on. That's where this petition comes in. What exactly are we praying for? Let's find out together.

Here are our goals for this module:

1. Identify sources of temptation
2. Describe ways to overcome temptation
3. Appreciate Jesus' overcoming all temptation

## Dig In

Read Luther's explanation to this petition on the top of **pg. 279** in your Catechism.

Make a list of temptations that come from each of the three sources listed. An example is given in italics:

- The World
  - *Temptation to want more stuff than I have or need*
- Our flesh
  - *The temptation to avoid suffering at all costs*
- The Devil
  - *Temptation to believe something false*

## Family In the Word (Optional)

Sometimes the Lord's Prayer can become stale and rote. When that happens, the believer can do one of two things: slow down and pray each line specifically, or find a way to see the prayer and pray the prayer with fresh eyes. As a family, search for the "Our Father Sung in Aramaic" by creator Joseph Royan C.Ss.R. Listen to **this sung version of the Lord's prayer in Aramaic** (hint: Jesus almost certainly taught the prayer first in Aramaic). As you listen, close your eyes, and think about the English translation of the prayer you know.

When the video is done, discuss as a family what stood out to you, what you noticed, what became fresh for you about the Lord's Prayer.

## Memory Treasure

Memorize **Philippians 4:7**. Make a video of yourself reciting this verse.

## Family In the Word

Read Matthew 4:1-11 as your family devotion. As you read, consider the following questions:

- The three temptations fall into three categories. How would you describe the temptations?
- What tools did Jesus use to say “no” to the temptations?
- Have you used the same tools?
- What happened right before? Right after?
- Agree or disagree: My ministry can only happen as I say "no" to temptations.

## \*Take it Home\*

Write a prayer asking God to step into an area of temptation for you right now. Pray about it every night for a week. What do you notice? Share your observations about that prayer in this assignment.



# Deliver Us From Evil

Search IMDB.com and you'll find at least six movies using this petition as the title. Is that all that evil is? Is that the picture of evil? We pray that God would deliver us from the devil and ALL forms of evil.

Here are our goals for this module:

1. Define "evil"
2. Recognize the source of evil
3. Be encouraged when I face evil in my life

## Dig In

Read Luther's explanation of this petition on the top of **pg. 285** in your Catechism.

Ultimate deliverance from evil will come when God takes us to be with him in heaven. Discuss as a family ways in which that ultimate deliverance can help you when you suffer evil today.

## Think Deeply

Take a look in your Catechism at **Q. 288** and the chart on **pg. 289**.

As a family, find an example from your life for each of God's three answers to our prayer, "To deliver us from evil."

## Think Deeply (Optional)

An objection often raised to Christianity is sometimes called "The Problem of Evil." The reasoning goes like this:

1. Evil in the world proves that God is either not loving or not all-powerful.
2. If God were loving, he would stop evil.
3. If God were all-powerful, he could stop evil.
4. Since there is evil in the world, God either does not love humanity or he is unable to stop the evil.

Search for “William Lane Craig on the Problem of Evil and Suffering”. Before you watch the video, how would you answer the question? Discuss it as a family. Once you have, watch what William Lane Craig says. Do you agree? Disagree?

## Memory Treasure

Memorize **Romans 5:3-5**. Make sure each member of the family gets a chance to recite it to each other member of the family.

## Family in the Word

Read John 18-20 as your family devotion over the next several days. As you read, consider the following questions:

- What did Jesus accomplish by his suffering?
- What comfort is there for me in Jesus' suffering? (Hint, there are at least two right answers here)
- Discuss: God was not required to suffer evil. Yet he did so that I could be forgiven of my sin.

## \*Take it Home\*

A common Psalm used to comfort the believer in the middle of evil is Psalm 23. Open your Bible there and write a prayer for each of the six verses. Here is an example using just the first verse:

***The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing***

*Lord, like a sheep, I walk through this life and am challenged by fearful dangers every day. Always present in front of me is how fragile life is. That's why I'm so thankful that you walk through life with me. You are a shepherd who calls, guides, directs, and saves me. While life may be fragile, you are not. You provide so many good things, more than I can count. I have all that I need and so much more. Thank you, my Shepherd.*

# For the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

What do praise and prayers look like in everyday life? This ending to the Lord's prayer gives us some hints. As we dig into this final section, these words will point us toward a life of praise and prayers.

Here are our goals for this module:

1. Orient our entire life to be one of praise
2. Find confidence to pray according to God's Will

## Dig In

Read Luther's explanation of this petition on the top of **pg. 292** in your Catechism.

Recall back to when we began looking at prayer, we talked about the three answers God gives to our prayers: yes, no, or not now. But, however God answers, we know that he is always listening. As a family, talk about how your prayers are different because you know someone (God) is listening.

## Dig In

Take a look at **Q. 293** in your Catechism.

Discuss why we use the word "Amen" to end all our prayers.

## Memory Treasure

Memorize **Matthew 7:7-8**. Practice reciting these verses out loud with each other.

## \*Take it Home Final\*

Go back through the last 9 modules and find the family prayers you wrote. Copy all of them into one homemade booklet. Use this book as your family prayer book. Over the coming months and years, update the prayers, take notes, and write new prayers. We pray this book you made would be a blessing to your family!