



devonport
church of christ

TERM 2 2026



**6 WEEKS OF SERMON-BASED
SMALL GROUP STUDIES**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sermon-based Small Group studies are designed to be explored with your Small Group after hearing the Sunday sermon.

To access the sermon again, please head to the church website or YouTube channel. www.devonportcoc.com.au

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The Lord's Prayer appears in the middle of the **Sermon on the Mount** (Matthew 5–7). In this sermon, Jesus describes what life looks like under the reign of God.

Immediately before teaching the prayer (Matthew 6:5–8), Jesus addresses two unhealthy prayer patterns:

- Public, performative prayer intended to impress others
- Empty repetition like pagan religious formulas

Jesus contrasts both with sincere, relational prayer. The Lord's Prayer is not meant to be mechanical — it is a model that reshapes the heart.

⁹ *This, then, is how you should pray:*

*'Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

¹¹ *Give us today our daily bread.*

¹² *And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

¹³ *And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'* - Jesus

Matthew 6:9-13

Consider praying the Lord's Prayer together each week in your Small Group.

Father

Big Idea: *If God is Father, then we can trust Him. If He is our Father, we are not alone.*

Text: Matthew 6:9 — “Our Father in heaven...”

Icebreakers

1. Which people or experiences most shaped your understanding of what a father is?
2. What makes you feel secure? Being around friends or family; a consistent bank balance; a well-planned schedule, something else...?

From the Scriptures

Read Matthew 6:9

1. Why does Jesus teach us to say, “Our Father” rather than “My Father”?
2. In first-century Judaism, God was occasionally described as Father of Israel but rarely addressed so personally. What do you think calling God “Father” would have meant to Jesus’ original hearers?

3. How does “in heaven” change the way we think of God as a father figure?
4. Read Romans 8:14-16. What does it mean that Jesus anchors the Lord’s Prayer (a framework to pray) in our identity in God?

Life Application Questions

1. What does it mean personally for you that God is Father?
2. In what areas of your life do you struggle to trust Him as a good Father?
3. How would your prayer life change if you began with relationship rather than requests?
4. What next step could help you grow in confidence in your identity as a child of God?

In your group prayer time, have each person start with a prayer of thanks or praise about God as Father.

King

Big Idea: *If God is King, then His will becomes our priority.*

Text: Matthew 6:10 — “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Icebreakers

1. Who or what most influences your daily decisions?
2. Describe a time when have you had to trust a leader/leadership without knowing the full picture?

From the Scriptures

Read Matthew 6:10

1. What do you think “kingdom” means in Matthew’s Gospel?
2. Why does Jesus connect God’s Kingdom with God’s will?

Read Matthew 10:5-8, Matthew 13:40-43, Matthew 13:44-46

3. What do these readings tell us about God’s Kingdom?

4. How can we be part of bringing the Kingdom of God near to those in need, in the 21st century? Who comes to mind when you think of people who are outside the kingdom?

Life Application Questions

1. What does living under God's kingship look like in your daily life?
2. Praying for God's kingdom to come is asking that His authority would shape our decisions, priorities, and obedience. Where are you tempted to take control instead of surrendering to God's will?
3. What area of your life most clearly reveals who or what is king? How would you finish this sentence, if it was a prayer of submission: *God, your will be done in my...*
4. What practical step of obedience is God prompting in you?

In your group prayer time, pray for God to help you bring the Kingdom of God near to family, friends, your workplace, schools etc

Provider

Big Idea: *The child who trusts the Father and lives under the King learns daily dependence.*

Text: Matthew 6:11 — “Give us today our daily bread.”

Icebreakers

1. What is something you rely on every day, that you wouldn't want to be without?
2. When have you experienced unexpected provision?

From the Scriptures

Read Matthew 6:7-11

1. Why does Jesus emphasise “daily” bread?
2. What is the significance of asking rather than assuming provision?

Read Exodus 16:13-21

3. How did the daily provision of manna test Israel's obedience and trust in God?

Read Matthew 6:25–33

4. How can we challenge our natural inclination to worry rather than trusting God's provision?

Life Application Questions

1. Do you tend to live from anxiety or trust?
2. What daily need do you find hardest to bring to God?
3. How might practicing gratitude reshape your awareness of God's provision and reorient you in prayer?
4. What would it look like to trust God just for today?

In your group prayer time, share a daily provision each person needs to trust to God this week.

Forgiver

Big Idea: *Those who have been forgiven deeply learn to forgive freely.*

Text: Matthew 6:12 — “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Icebreakers

1. What was the first thing you loaned money for (like your first car) and how did it feel to be in debt?
2. When have you seen or experienced life-changing grace?

From the Scriptures

Read Matthew 6:11-12

1. What does Jesus mean by “debts”?
2. Why does Jesus relate receiving forgiveness with extending it?
3. Read Matthew 18:21–35.

How do these verses connect to Jesus’ teaching in the Lord’s Prayer?

4. Read Luke 7:41-48.

What do these verses reveal about the nature of grace, and the kind of people who are welcomed into the kingdom?

Life Application Questions

1. How does remembering God's grace empower you to extend grace to others?
2. What makes forgiveness costly?
3. Is there an area where you need to seek God's forgiveness? Is there someone you need to forgive?

In your group prayer time, make some time available for silent, individual confession.

Protector

Big Idea: *We are not as strong as we think — and that is why we pray.*

Text: Matthew 6:13a — “Lead us not into temptation...”

Icebreakers

1. Which food do you find tempting that you know is not good for you?
2. As a child or young person, who was someone who made you feel safe, stood up for you or prayed for you regularly?

From the Scriptures

Read Matthew 6:13a

1. How would you define “temptation” in this context?
2. Does God lead people into temptation? How should we understand this phrase?
3. Why is this prayer communal (“us”)?

4. Read Matthew 4:1–11. What were the temptations Jesus faced? What would have been the consequence if he gave in?
5. What can we learn about facing and dealing with temptation from Jesus' example?

Life Application Questions

1. What patterns, people or environments increase vulnerability to temptation for you?
2. What practical guardrails could strengthen your spiritual resilience?
3. How can prayer become your first response rather than your last resort?
4. What recurring temptation do you need to bring honestly before God?

In your group prayer time, make some time available for silent, individual confession.

Deliverer

Big Idea: *We are not as strong as we think — and that is why we pray.*

Text: Matthew 6:13b — “Deliver us from the evil one.”

Icebreakers

1. Have you ever been involved in a real-life rescue situation?
2. How aware are you of spiritual opposition?

From the Scriptures

Read Matthew 6:13.

1. Do you think “evil” refers to general evil or the evil one?
2. What are some examples of spiritual conflict in Jesus’ ministry?
3. This closing line of the Lord’s Prayer reminds us that life with God does not remove spiritual struggle. What does this teach about human limitation and God’s power?

4. Look back over the whole prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

Why does the prayer end with dependence on deliverance? Which other elements of the Lord's Prayer require dependence on God?

Life Application Questions

1. How does acknowledging spiritual opposition change how you pray? How can you balance an awareness of spiritual conflict with trusting that God is greater?
2. Deliverance is not self-achieved, it is received. Where do you need God's deliverance right now?
3. What fears might be keeping you from trusting God fully?
4. What will help you grow in confidence that God is stronger than evil?

The Lord's Prayer: A framework

We approach Him as Father.

We submit to Him as King.

We rely on Him as Provider.

We receive grace from Him as Forgiver.

We seek His guidance as Protector.

We trust Him as Deliverer.

Prayer forms humility, trust, and confidence in God's power.

