



IHL Devotionals 2024-25: Game 10

Bible story: The Lord's Prayer

The Our Father, or The Lord's Prayer, comes from Jesus's famed "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 5-7. The sermon is arguably his most famous and has been described as his inaugural address. It gives us The Beatitudes, The Our Father, "an eye for an eye," and numerous other lessons for life as a believer.

What happens in this story?

Large crowds began forming as word spread about Jesus healing the sick. Matthew 5 begins by saying that when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. Thus begins the sermon, which continues for three chapters. Part of Chapter 6 gives instructions on how to pray.

[Matthew 6] 5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

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.'

14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Takeaways

- Many of us learned this prayer as kids; we can mindlessly rattle it off like it's the Pledge of Allegiance. It is important to slow down and earnestly pray each line of this prayer.
- Jesus' prayer reminds us: God is good, powerful, generous, and merciful.
- Remember that God's name is "hallowed" (verse 9), meaning: regarded as holy; venerated; sacred.

Questions

1. What does it look like to pray for God's will to be done (verse 10), instead of *our* will?
2. Jesus asks God for today's provision of daily bread. Do we approach our lives with this sort of dependence on or confidence in God?
3. For what "debts" do we need to ask God for forgiveness? How are we to respond when others sin against us?
4. Why is it important to pray to avoid temptation?
5. What do we learn from verses 14-15?

Closing and prayer requests

Lord, thank you for showing us how to pray. We trust fully in your will and in your provision for us. Amen.

Resources

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%206&version=NIV>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/wilkin-second-sermon-mount/>