



Leader's Corner

Teach Us to Pray:
Jesus Taught Us How

Matthew 6:5–13

Summary: Prayer was never meant to be a religious performance or a polished presentation. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches His followers that prayer is relational, honest, dependent, and deeply personal. We pray not to impress others or manipulate God, but because we are welcomed by a loving Father who already knows what we need. Through the Lord's Prayer, Jesus gives us both a model and an invitation—to bring our praise, surrender, needs, reconciliation, and struggles before God daily.

Main Passage: Matthew 6:5–13

Main Idea: Prayer is not about saying the perfect words—it is about bringing our real hearts before our Father.

Main Practice: Practice honest, daily prayer that is rooted more in relationship with God than religious performance.

Prayer and Praise

Opening Prayer:

Father in Heaven,

Thank You that You invite us to come near—not because we have everything together, but because You love us. Teach us to pray with honesty, humility, and dependence. Quiet the noise, performance, and distractions within us, and help us seek Your presence above all else. Shape our hearts to desire Your Kingdom, trust You with our needs, walk in forgiveness, and depend on You in every struggle. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Worship Song Suggestions:

- "Good Good Father" — Chris Tomlin
- "Abide" — The Worship Initiative
- "The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours)" — Matt Maher

Prayer Direction:

Spend time praying slowly through the Lord's Prayer together. Encourage group members to pause after each phrase and offer short prayers connected to that theme.

Group Discussion

Principle (Main Discussion):

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message or passage?
2. Why do you think Jesus warned against praying to impress others?
3. What do the three "When You Pray" instructions reveal about God's desire for prayer?
4. Which part of the Lord's Prayer feels most natural for you? Which part feels most challenging?
5. When do you find yourself most tempted to treat prayer as routine, performance, or obligation rather than relationship?
6. What helps you pray honestly instead of just saying what you think you "should" say?
7. Which area of the Lord's Prayer do you most need to lean into right now:
 - God's Praise
 - God's Will
 - Our Needs
 - Our Reconciliation
 - Our Struggles
8. How would your prayer life change if you truly believed God already knew your needs and welcomed your honesty?
9. What is one practical rhythm or change that could help deepen your daily prayer life this week?
10. Who is someone you can intentionally pray for—and perhaps even pray with—this week?

Practice

Group Practice:

As a group, slowly pray through the Lord's Prayer together.

After each section, pause for 1–2 minutes and allow people to pray short, conversational prayers connected to that theme:

- Praise
- Surrender
- Provision
- Forgiveness
- Protection

Encourage simplicity and honesty over polished words.

Individual Practice:

This week, set aside 5–10 minutes each day to pray through the Lord's Prayer line by line.

A helpful rhythm:

- Morning → "Your Kingdom come"
- Midday → "Give us today our daily bread"
- Evening → "Forgive us our debts"

Optional Challenge:

Spend one prayer time this week without asking God for anything immediately—simply sit with Him, worship, and listen.

Further Study

Additional Scriptures:

- Matthew 7:7–11
- Luke 11:1–13
- Psalm 62:8
- Philippians 4:6–7
- Romans 8:15–16
- Hebrews 4:14–16

Themes to Explore:

- Prayer as relationship rather than performance
- God as Father
- Dependence and surrender
- Forgiveness and reconciliation
- Persistent prayer and trust

Quote: "True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that—it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth." — Charles Spurgeon

Closing Encouragement: Jesus did not simply command His followers to pray—He invited them into relationship with the Father. Prayer is not about having the right formula; it is about returning again and again to the God who knows, loves, hears, and welcomes us.