**Life Group Bible Study**

**Schoolhouse Praise @ St. Paul**

**Teach Us to Pray**

September 4, 2022

**KEY POINTS:**

Our passage today is one that most of us have memorized – The Lord’s Prayer. The plus side of memorization is that it is something we’ve internalized, something that we can turn to and rely on in times of need. Yet it is also true that this familiarity can lead us to take this wonderful prayer for granted, and sometimes we say it without thinking about the meaning. This week’s discussion is a great opportunity to dive into it a little deeper, and maybe to pray it in a new way.

**PRAYER**

Open your time together with a moment of prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation, and ask God to give you wisdom and discernment as you read Scripture and discuss your faith. Trust in him to guide you.

**INTO THE WORD**

Take a few moments to read the Scripture verses. You can read these passages out loud as a group or silently to yourselves.

*“Pray This”*

**Read Luke 11:1-4**

Luke 11:1-4 NLT Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As He finished, one of His disciples came to Him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." 2 Jesus said, "This is how you should pray: "Father, may Your name be kept holy. May Your Kingdom come soon. 3 Give us each day the food we need, 4 and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation. "

What stands out to you in this reading? If you have more than one translation available, compare them. Did you hear anything you haven’t heard before? Has The Lord’s Prayer played a significant role in your life? What does it mean that Jesus gives these as specific words for prayer saying, “This is how you should pray”?

*“Deliverance from the Evil One”*

**Read Matthew 6:9-13**

Matthew 6:9-13 NLT Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy. 10 May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today the food we need, 12 and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. 13 And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The New Testament, as we have it, is distilled from many ancient manuscripts, some of which have slight differences. The version of this prayer in the Gospel of Matthew is longer and includes “…and deliver us from the evil one.” Some of the manuscripts include “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.” What do you think it means that they are different? What does deliverance from the evil one look like in your life?

*“Your Father Knows What You Need”*

**Read Matthew 6:5-8 & Luke 11:5-13**

Matthew 6:5-8 NLT "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. 6 But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. 7 "When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. 8 Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask Him!

Luke 11:5-13 NLT Then, teaching them more about prayer, He used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 6 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' 7 And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' 8 But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence. 9 "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 "You fathers—if your children ask [*for bread, do you give them a stone? Or if they ask*] for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? 12 Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 13 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."

In this instruction from Jesus about prayer, we see Jesus contrasting the way we should pray with the prayer of the religious hypocrites. What differences do you notice when looking at The Lord’s Prayer? What is the “good gift” that God certainly gives (Luke 11:13)? How does The Lord’s Prayer differ from the prayers Christians often pray? Does reading Jesus’ instruction about prayer change the way that you think about it? Does it challenge you, comfort you, or both?

*“Lord, Teach Us to Pray”*

**Pray through each petition of The Lord’s Prayer**

Take as much time as you can to pray through each section of The Lord’s Prayer listed below, one at a time. As you pray each petition, ask God to open your mind and your heart to his Word. Dwell on each word, and let it speak to you in a new way. For example, what does it mean that we are to pray *our* instead of *my* Father? Who is the *our* in the prayer? Is it all Christians? It is everyone who is praying together at that particular time? Is it all of creation? Open your mind to think about it in a new way, and don’t rush through it.

**1.** Our Father who art in heaven

**2.** Hallowed be thy name

**3.** Thy kingdom come

**4.** Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

**5.** Give us this day our daily bread

**6.** Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us

**7.** Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

**8.** For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Amen.

**WALKING WITH JESUS**

This week, make a decision to use your gifts to bring about unity within the church. Ask God to heal areas of brokenness in your life and also to reveal ways in which you can be in harmony with others.