



JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

After this manner therefore pray ye

JOHN - I AM SAYINGS

See Jesus as the I AM

THE SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES

The fruit and gifts of the Spirit

**GOD'S
WORD**
FOR LIFE

GOD'S WORD



FOR LIFE

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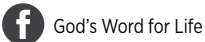


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DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor in Chief:
Robin Johnston

Associate Editor in Chief:
Lee Ann Alexander

Curriculum Director:
LJ Harry

WRITERS:

Raymart Lugue, Chris Paris,
Rachel Skirvin

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GETTING STARTED

The first page of each week's material will help you to become familiar with the Truth about God, Truth for My Life, Focus Verse, and Lesson Text to be used in your Sunday school class or small group setting.



SG TEACHING OUTLINE

LESSON **1.1**

Lesson Title: The Lord's Prayer

Icebreaker: What was your first word? What about your children's first word?

I. THE POSTURE FOR PRAYER

A. Prayer Is a Private Conversation, Not a Public Demonstration
» Do you struggle to have a private conversation with God? If so, why do you think you struggle and how can you ask God to help you?

B. We Can Expect God to Answer Our Prayers

C. I Will Pray with Expectation
» Why do you think some people don't expect God to answer their prayer? How can a seemingly unanswered prayer be the right answer?

II. THE PATTERN FOR PRAYER
» How do you use the Lord's Prayer in your daily devotion?

A. God Is a Loving Father Who Knows What Is Best for His Children

B. God Will Answer If We Will Ask

C. I Will Submit My Will, Plans, and Needs to God in Prayer
» What is the most bizarre prayer you have ever prayed? What is the most powerful prayer you have ever prayed?

III. THE PURPOSE FOR PRAYER

A. Thy Kingdom Come; Thy Will Be Done (Right Relationship with God)
» What would look different in your life if God set up His throne in your home?

B. We Must Forgive Others (Right Relationship with Others)

C. I Will Forgive and Show Mercy to Others

Prayer Focus
Lead the group in prayer and consider the following topics of focus:
• Thank God for His invitation to pray
• For God to help us to faithfully pray

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SMALL GROUP TEACHING OUTLINE

The second page provides a Small Group (SG) Teaching Outlines so you can follow along with the main points of the lesson if you choose to bring your Daily Devotional Guide to church. The outline also includes the lesson's discussion questions so you can be prepared for discussion if you meet in small groups.

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

Lesson Text: Matthew 6:5-18

While present-day Christians often think of prayer as something that anyone can do at any time, the reality was very different in the Old Testament. Judges 10 features the heartbreaking story of God refusing to hear Israel's prayers due to the perpetual cycle of the people sinning, being sold into the hands of their enemies, and pleading with the Lord for deliverance. The Almighty broke the series of sin and salvation by telling the Israelites to cry out to the false gods they worshiped.

The arrival of the final judge, Samuel, gave the people a minister to seek God for them. Because of the prophet's powerful connection to God, the Israelites begged Samuel not to stop crying out to the Lord for them (1 Samuel 7:9). Sadly, the people soon forgot the prophet. When Samuel anointed Saul to be king, the Israelites discovered that they would need to cry out to their ruler to save them.

Thankfully, King Solomon built the Temple, a place where everyone could call on the Lord. The wise king even envisioned God's children in exile and prayed that the Lord would hear their supplications when they set their faces toward Jerusalem. Daniel served as an answer to this petition. His prayers saved his life, the lives of his friends, and the lives of the wise men of Babylon. Later Daniel's private commitment to the Lord became a public spectacle when the royal officials tricked King Darius into decreeing that prayers could only be offered to him. The Almighty saved the prayer warrior from the mouths of the lions.

Somewhere along the way, the Jews missed out on the true meaning behind Daniel's devotion and viewed prayer as an opportunity to gain favor with people instead of God. Striving to please others, they lost the effectualness of seeking the Lord. Instead of receiving an answer to their supplication, they gained the insignificant reward of others believing they were righteous—when, in fact, they were not. Because Jesus recognized this hypocrisy and self-righteousness, He taught us how to pray properly, approaching Him in secret by using the model known as the Lord's Prayer.

THE ALMIGHTY BROKE THE SERIES OF SIN AND SALVATION BY TELLING THE ISRAELITES TO CRY OUT TO THE FALSE GODS THEY WORSHIPED.

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BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

The third page of each lesson will give you a “high level” Biblical Overview of the Lesson Text. The content will explore the text, its background, and any other pertinent information to help you better understand the setting, purpose, and message of the text.

DAILY DEVOTION

The remaining pages will guide you through your week of personal devotion and study. You are encouraged to complete the Bible Reading plan for each day and explore a portion of the text with the help of a section of Biblical Insight on that part of the text. Next is a Daily Devotion to read and a prompt to reflect and pray about the principles presented.

DAY 1

Matthew 6:5-10

¹ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

² But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

³ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

⁴ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

⁵ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

⁶ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Biblical Insight

In Matthew 6, Jesus talked about praying in secret. While the Bible also speaks of demonstration of the Spirit and power (1 Corinthians 12:4), we should pray privately before the gifts of the Spirit are publicly made manifest. In John, Jesus told his mother (John 2:4) and brothers (John 7:6) that the time had yet to arrive for Him to reveal Himself. In Mark, Jesus hid His identity so much that scholars speak of the Messianic Secret. We should pray in secret so that when the power of God is demonstrated openly, we will be glorifying God and not ourselves.

Daily Devotion

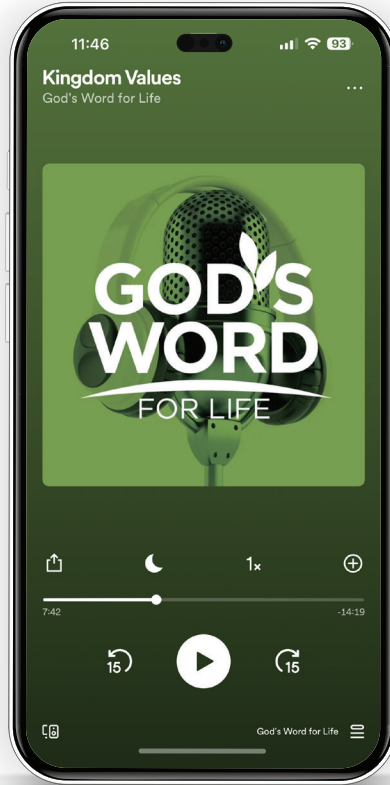
Have you ever stumbled from your room at a random, dark hour to get a glass of water, only to hear your mother praying in the living room or her prayer closet? Praying manas are a different type of special. They acknowledge their personal time with the Lord as sacred. There is something about that alone time with God that cannot be duplicated, even with corporate worship.

As born-again believers, we know that unashamedly sharing our values and being open about our adoration for Jesus are part of the culture. We Pentecostals have a reputation for being loud. We know how to connect with God in worship! The verses in Matthew 6 do not negate that. The admonition just reminds us that our invocations do not have to be heard by others to be effective. We pray to an audience of One. Our communication with the Lord should be personal, in whatever way that might look. Sometimes the faintest cries unto Him are the most sincere and powerful.

Reflection and Prayer

» What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?

LEARNING AND LIVING OUT GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE



Join podcast host LJ Harry on the God's Word for Life companion podcast every week. Each episode complements the God's Word for Life Lesson Guide, Daily Devotional Guide, and the Small Group Guide as we think deeply about how God's Word impacts our lives. The podcast is a great tool for families and groups to listen to and discuss what we are learning from God's Word. The podcast shares stories and passages in Scripture with fresh insights to encourage followers of Jesus. Like the guides, each episode features discussion questions to help us apply what we are hearing and start conversations about God's Word.

Enjoy the God's Word for Life companion podcast as we learn and live out God's Word for Life.

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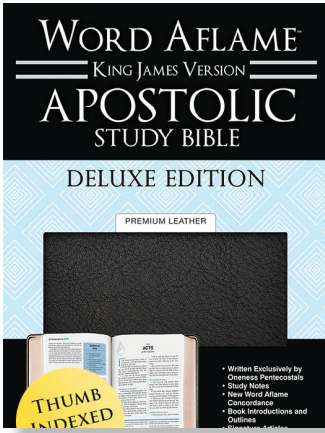


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YOUTH DAILY DEVOTIONAL

God's Word for Life equips every age level of the church to study Scripture daily. This resource for youth (ages 12-18) provides a daily Bible passage connected to the week's lesson and a corresponding devotion. Each day ends with a final challenge to apply the message of God's Word with both junior high and senior high options.

APOSTOLIC STUDY BIBLE



The Deluxe Edition of the Apostolic Study Bible features a premium genuine leather cover and study notes written exclusively by Oneness Pentecostal scholars, special emphasis given to passages of Scripture that are important to the Apostolic message, book introductions and outlines that call attention to key Apostolic insights as well as theme, authorship, date, and other significant information.

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SERIES 1: JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

Jesus invites us to pray, and He even shares a prayer request of His own: pray for laborers. In His compassion, He invites those laborers to come unto Him and rest, and ultimately prays for all of us—even with our personality differences—to be one.



SERIES 2: JOHN - I AM SAYINGS

This series explores four of the seven “I am” statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. These sayings have been the focus of countless studies and for good reason. They reveal much about Christ, the human manifestation of the invisible God. These proclamations are important to Oneness believers, for they explicitly identify Jesus as the “I AM” of the Old Testament. Furthermore, they are vital for believers who desire to be Christlike. This series will teach us much about the Godhead but much more about what it means to be like Christ, the incarnation of the I AM.



SERIES 3: THE SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES

The greatest gift we have received from God is His Holy Spirit. This series will take a close look at both blessings God gives (fruit and gifts) when He gives us His Spirit.

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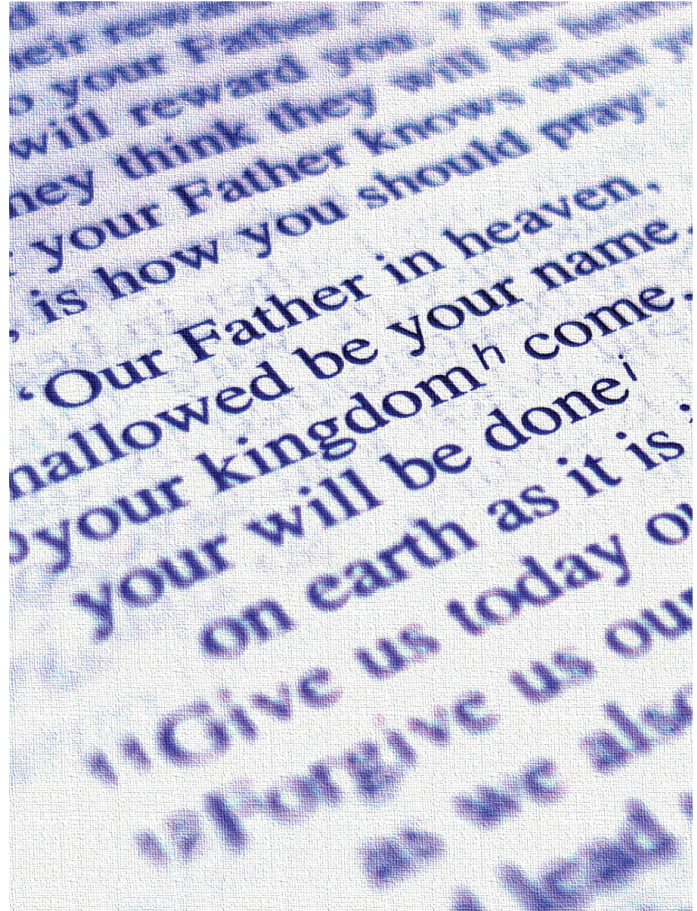
THE LORD'S PRAYER

TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God invites us to pray.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will follow Jesus' pattern for prayer.



FOCUS VERSE: Matthew 6:8

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 6:5-18



**Lesson Title:** The Lord's Prayer

Icebreaker: What was your first word? What about your children's first word?

I. THE POSTURE FOR PRAYER**A. Prayer Is a Private Conversation, Not a Public Demonstration**

» *Do you struggle to have a private conversation with God? If so, why do you think you struggle and how can you ask God to help you?*

B. We Can Expect God to Answer Our Prayers**C. I Will Pray with Expectation**

» *Why do you think some people don't expect God to answer their prayer? How can a seemingly unanswered prayer be the right answer?*

II. THE PATTERN FOR PRAYER

» *How do you use the Lord's Prayer in your daily devotion?*

A. God Is a Loving Father Who Knows What Is Best for His Children**B. God Will Answer If We Will Ask****C. I Will Submit My Will, Plans, and Needs to God in Prayer**

» *What is the most bizarre prayer you have ever prayed? What is the most powerful prayer you have ever prayed?*

III. THE PURPOSE FOR PRAYER**A. Thy Kingdom Come; Thy Will Be Done (Right Relationship with God)**

» *What would look different in your life if God set up His throne in your home?*

B. We Must Forgive Others (Right Relationship with Others)**C. I Will Forgive and Show Mercy to Others****Prayer Focus**

Lead the group in prayer and consider the following topics of focus:

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- For God to help us to faithfully pray

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Matthew 6:5-10

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⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Biblical Insight

In Matthew 6, Jesus talked about praying in secret. While the Bible also speaks of demonstration of the Spirit and power (1 Corinthians 2:4), we should pray privately before the gifts of the Spirit are publicly made manifest. In John, Jesus told his mother (John 2:4) and brothers (John 7:6) that the time had yet to arrive for Him to reveal Himself. In Mark, Jesus hid His identity so much that scholars speak of the Messianic Secret. We should pray in secret so that when the power of God is demonstrated openly, we will be glorifying God and not ourselves.

Daily Devotion

Have you ever stumbled from your room at a random, dark hour to get a glass of water, only to hear your mother praying in the living room or her prayer closet? Praying mamas are a different type of special. They acknowledge their personal time with the Lord as sacred. There is something about that alone time with God that cannot be duplicated, even with corporate worship.

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Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 2

Matthew 6:5-10

⁵ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

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⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Biblical Insight

In Matthew 6, Jesus focused on creating the right mindset for prayer by identifying two incorrect ways to seek the Lord based on Jews and Gentiles living in the Greco-Roman world. Jesus first discussed the Jewish hypocrites who loved to draw attention to themselves in the synagogues. Then Jesus referenced the vain repetitions of the Gentiles in their pagan religions. The hypocrites hoped to be seen. The pagans hoped to be heard, thinking their babbling would have an effect. Recognizing the bad motives of both, God ignored their requests, but He already knew the needs of those who trusted in Him.

Daily Devotion

Surprise gifts are usually welcomed. I say usually, because sometimes that fruitcake or jar of cotton swabs is not as welcomed as a purse or a book you have been eyeing. However, if fruitcakes and jars of cotton swabs are your thing, even better. You are easier to buy for than most. A person thinking of you and getting you something without you having to ask is a big deal. How many wives love when their husbands do the dishes without having to be asked?

God specializes in knowing our needs or wants without us having to ask. Though this is true, He wants to hear our prayers as we communicate with Him. He loves when we commune with Him alone in times of prayer and talk with Him authentically and openly about our needs, desires, and dreams.

Write down some personal matters that you need to give over to God. In what ways have you seen Him work before that testify of His unending faithfulness?

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 3

Matthew 6:10-14

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

¹⁴ For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Biblical Insight

In Matthew 6:10, Jesus revealed a very real connection between two different realms by commanding the disciples to pray for the will of the Lord to be done on earth as it is in Heaven. In Heaven, the angels follow the Lord without question, enacting His wishes. But Jesus desired to show that following Him went beyond obedience. To truly bring the kingdom of Heaven to earth, believers need to recognize that they have great authority. Therefore, Jesus told Peter that whatsoever he bound or loosed on earth would be bound or loosed in Heaven and vice versa (Matthew 18:18).

Daily Devotion

To many, Matthew 6:10 could be interpreted to mean that the will of the Lord is for us to pray like earth would have the same characteristics as Heaven: "in earth, as it is in Heaven." Though it would be wonderful to have the same sort of tranquility that celestial city promises, we still have crime, hospitals, and earthquakes here. We still live in fragile flesh, so earth is not meant to be Heaven yet.

Praying God's will in earth as it is in Heaven means that though we are in this world, we still have holy authority when we bring our needs and requests to Him. His kingdom is bigger than a place prepared beyond the clouds; His kingdom is also within us. You have authority. Pray boldly!

How would you pray if you really believed in the power you have through Jesus Christ? What seemingly impossible prayers do you need to bring to God today?

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 4

Matthew 6:7-12

⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Biblical Insight

Some translations of the Bible speak of forgiving debts as we forgive our debtors. Others render Matthew 6:12 by referencing forgiving trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Since every translation is an interpretation, the possibility exists that cultural situations affected the wording. Landowners associated with the Roman Catholic church might be more inclined to think about trespassing. The merchants connected to Protestantism might focus more on the collecting of debts. Although the Greek language more easily lends itself to the idea of debts and debtors, both translations are pertinent. Ultimately, the basic meaning of the text emphasizes that we are to forgive others since God has so mercifully forgiven us.

Daily Devotion

Companies like ADT and Ring have made fortunes on their home alarms and security camera systems. They pride themselves on keeping you, your family, and your home safe from intruders. This is great, except when the systems fail. There are many stories of break-ins happening despite the top security procedures being in place. (Cue every crime treasure hunting book ever written.)

In this broken, greedy world, no matter how far technology advances, there will be violations to safety, privacy, and possessions. The same goes for human emotions and well-being. There will be breaches of trust, care, and overall sense of self. When this happens, forgiveness is still the answer.

Forgiveness does not excuse the offender's behavior, but it does set you free from bitterness and hatred. It is essential to our walk with God. What offenses and breaches of trust have been made toward you that you need to forgive?

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 5

Matthew 6:14-18

¹⁴ For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

¹⁵ but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

¹⁶ Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

¹⁷ But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

¹⁸ that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

Biblical Insight

The New Testament uses the Greek word, *skythropoi*, meaning “sad” or “gloomy,” in two different ways. In Matthew 6:16, Jesus speaks against looking sad when fasting. The disciples were to avoid mimicking hypocrites who distorted their faces so others would know they were abstaining from eating. The false face of these phonies contrasted with the very real grief of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:17). The same Greek word refers to them mourning the death of Jesus. God is nowhere near the hypocrites, but Jesus walks side by side with faithful followers and reveals Himself to them.

Daily Devotion

If you have ever gone without food for an extended period of time, you know what it means to be *hangry*. A mixture of hungry and angry create this phenomenon. Anyone caught in the path of a person in this condition has our sympathies. Abstaining from eating is not easy, even for the most esteemed Christians. Our bodies love food. We desire it. We cook it, sauté it, bake it, and fry it. It is understandable that when you go without it, you feel different. It is a human response.

What is happening in these verses is different from your run-of-the-mill responses to missing out on a meal. Hypocrites then and now crave attention and attempt to elevate themselves based on their vain accomplishments. Fasting is personal, not something you need to shout from a rooftop to make yourself look more spiritual. Our relationship with God should be lived in a way that enables others to see Him through us, not something we do for recognition or praise from others.

Take a moment to reflect and journal about an area of your life where you want the Lord to search and purify your motives.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*
