

# YOUTH

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

JR. HIGH/SR. HIGH  
SUMMER 2024

GOD'S  
WORD  
FOR LIFE *youth*

# GOD'S WORD

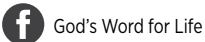


FOR LIFE

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Youth Daily Devotional Guide  
Summer 2024

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

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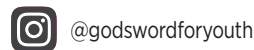
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# 1.1

## SERIES 1: JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

### **TRUTH ABOUT GOD**///

God invites us to pray.

#### **SERIES BIG IDEA**

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.

#### **BIBLICAL PASSAGE**

Matthew 6:5-18

#### **TRUTH FOR MY LIFE**

I will follow Jesus' pattern for prayer.

### **WHERE DO WE BEGIN?**///

Jesus does not want us to walk around mopey and miserable. He does not want us making a grand display in an effort to convince Him to move on our behalf. Instead, Jesus wants us to trust that He is a loving Father who knows what is best for us. When Jesus says no, it is because He has something better for us. When He says yes, it is because our desires align with His plans.

Jesus will answer if we will ask. If we do not get an immediate answer, rather than automatically assuming that Jesus said no, we should remain patient in faith until He responds. When His timing is right, He will make His desires clear. We must submit our will, our plans, and our needs to God in prayer. We do not go to Him trying to force Him to do our bidding. Instead, we go to Him to deepen our relationship with Him. As we do, we will better align what we want with what He wants for our lives.

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ///

The following questions, devotions, and action points can be used any way you feel comfortable. We suggest using a journal, the notes app on your phone, or the spaces provided in this daily devotional book to take notes, write answers, and make lists. The purpose of this resource is to give you a space to interact with the Word of God and reflect on what you learn from that experience.

/// Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray?

/// How can a prayer outline be helpful?

/// How do you feel about your prayer life right now?  
What can be better?

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE *///*

## *THE LORD'S PRAYER*

### MONDAY

#### Read Matthew 6:5-6.

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. 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.

A hypocrite is someone whose words do not match their actions. For example, a dentist who tells you not to eat so much sugar but has a large bowl of candy on his desk might be considered a hypocrite. Hypocrites are not always easy to spot, though. Is someone who prays out loud always seeking attention? Of course not. Additionally, there is nothing sinful about public prayer. Jesus is dealing with the heart. If we pray only so others will know we prayed, we have the wrong motives; we are doing the right thing but for the wrong reason. Genuine prayer results from a desire to make a sincere connection with Jesus.

**Jr. High *///* What is the purpose of prayer? Write down your thoughts.**

**Sr. High *///* How can we avoid hypocrisy in our prayer lives? Write down your thoughts.**

### TUESDAY

#### Read Matthew 6:7-8.

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Have you ever tried to pray for an hour? I remember the first time I tried to pray for an hour. I knelt at the altar, and after what felt like at least thirty minutes, I looked at my watch. It turned out I had only been praying five minutes! I spent the next fifty-five minutes repeating similar phrases over and over. I wasn't really connecting with God; I was just trying to make sure I reached the hour mark. While praying for an hour is a great goal, it is more important that we connect with Jesus when we pray. Instead of focusing on the length of your prayer, focus on putting your whole heart into it.

**Jr. High *///* One way to avoid being repetitive in prayer is to make a prayer list. Take a few moments and make one for your private prayer time.**

**Sr. High *///* What are some phrases you've heard repeated over and over in prayer? What are some different ways to say the same things?**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### WEDNESDAY

#### Read Hebrews 4:15-16.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Can you imagine walking into a king's throne room? It is intimidating to even think about. Unlike modern democracies, a king does not need a judge, a jury, or even a law to pass judgment on someone. When you approach a king, you take your own life into your hands. In most cultures in Bible times, you could not even enter a king's presence without being summoned. Even Queen Esther feared for her life when she entered her husband's throne room uninvited! But a child does not have that same fear. If a king's two-year-old daughter toddles into the throne room, she is not fearing for her life; she is excited to see her daddy. That is how Jesus wants us to approach Him.

**Jr. High ///** What does it mean to be a child of God? Write down some feelings that come to mind.

**Sr. High ///** Why do you think some people are afraid to take their prayer requests to Jesus? Write down how you feel when you bring your prayer requests to Jesus.

### THURSDAY

#### Read Matthew 6:9-13.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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.

This passage of Scripture is commonly called the Lord's Prayer. It is a pattern Jesus established to teach us how to talk with Him. It is not something we are supposed to recite. It is not a checklist. Rather, it is an example of what it means to try to make a meaningful connection with Him. We open up in praise and worship to Him. We ask for His help and forgiveness. We also offer forgiveness to others. We share our deepest desires and fears. We take comfort in His protection. Prayer is more than a pattern; it is a conversation with the one who loved us enough to die for us.

**Jr. High ///** Using the pattern outlined by Jesus, rewrite the Lord's Prayer in your own words.

**Sr. High ///** Some people recite the Lord's Prayer from memory in their prayer time. Is that the way Jesus wants us to pray? Why or why not?

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### FRIDAY

#### Read Matthew 6:16.

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.

Fasting. It sounds so painful, doesn't it? We have to go an entire day without eating? It doesn't sound too bad . . . until about 10 AM when we haven't eaten breakfast, and our stomachs are growling in math class! It is easy to treat fasting as an "optional extra." It is not something we need to do often; it is just something we do for "extra credit" when we need God to move, right? Wrong! Jesus didn't say, "if ye fast;" He said, "when ye fast." No one enjoys fasting, but the results of fasting can be powerful.

**Jr. High ///** Have you fasted before? If not, why not?

**Sr. High ///** What are some different ways you can fast?

### SATURDAY

#### Read Matthew 6:17-18.

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

Jesus ended His teaching on praying and fasting recorded in Matthew 6 the same way He started it—by encouraging believers not to do these things so others will praise us, but to connect with God. We miss the beauty of fasting when we spend the whole day complaining about how hungry and miserable we are. Jesus wants us to use prayer and fasting to develop a strong, meaningful relationship with Him. There is great reward to be found in simply knowing Him.

**Jr. High ///** Write down what you can do to improve your prayer and fasting life.

**Sr. High ///** Prayerfully consider setting aside a day each week as a "fast day." If your church already has a churchwide fast day, that may be the best day.



**NOTES**///

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