

2023, Term 3

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# The Disciple's Prayer

HOW TO PRAY THE FATHER'S WAY



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## Overview of the “The Disciples’ Prayer” series

We pray the Lord’s Prayer every week at church. For many, the weekly reciting has resulted in the memorisation of Scripture. This is fantastic and we don’t want to undervalue the importance of set prayers in our services. Over many years, church goers may not remember the specific details from each sermon they’ve heard, but they remember the Lord’s Prayer and this informs them of how they can pray.

However, the words can become so familiar to us that they may no longer be thought-provoking and soul-impacting. Many may be able to recite the words but may not understand what is meant in each line, and so it can lose its impact.

But for Jesus’ first listeners, this prayer was profound and transformational. It wasn’t just the Lord Jesus’ prayer – it was a prayer that his disciples could pray and model their own prayers off.

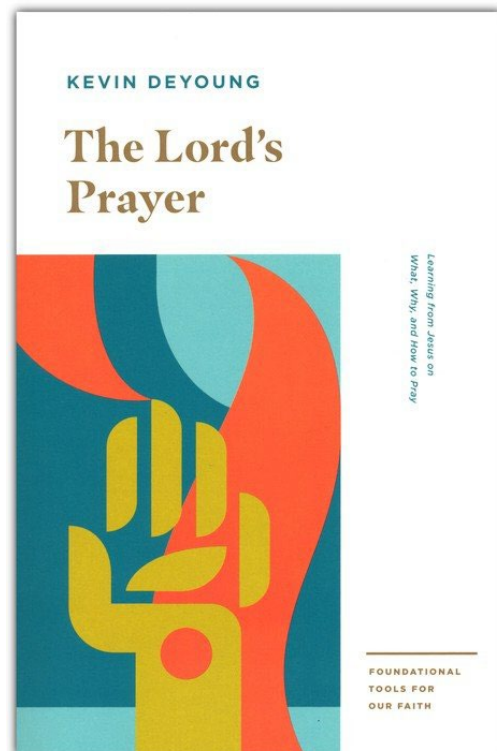
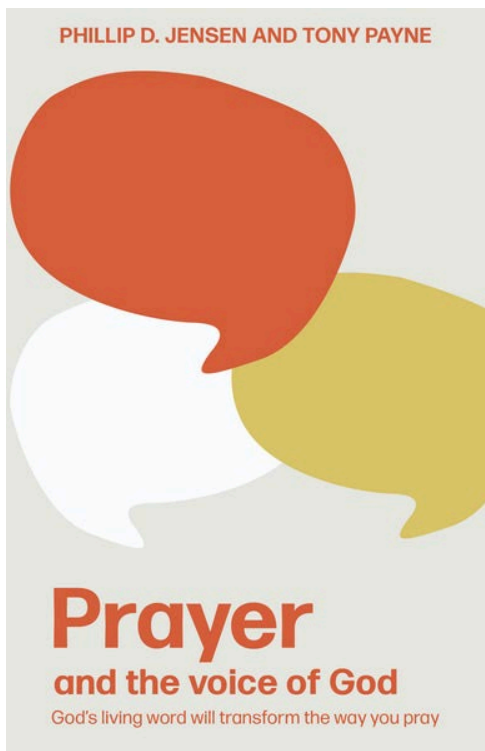
The prayer that Jesus taught his disciples (that includes us!) is rich in theology. So this term, we want to slow down and consider each line of the Lord’s Prayer. By doing so, we not only strengthen our doctrines, but we can gain a newfound appreciation and love for our Heavenly Father as we pray to him each week at church, and each day at home.

Our hope is that you finish the series with a greater love for prayer, a greater appreciation for our Heavenly Father, and a renewed sense of purpose as we recite the Lord’s Prayer at St Annes each week.

## Extra Resources

Here are some additional resources you may like to use to help you as you grow in your understand of the Lord's Prayer. God's word is the primary source of knowledge but he has given us experts to help us in this journey. As with all resources and authors, we need to be wise and discerning, and allow Scripture to be the final authority where we may differ on opinions and interpretations.

### *Books and Audiobooks*



### *Podcasts*



A Hope 103.2 limited series, hosted by Ben McEachen. Conversations with theologian and lecturer David Hohne (Moore College).

Available on <https://hope1032.com.au/show/the-lords-prayer/>, Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts and YouTube.

## Prayer diary

You may like to use this diary as a way of recording your prayers and observing how God answers them.

Date	Prayer points	Date answered	God's answer

<b>Date</b>	<b>Prayer points</b>	<b>Date answered</b>	<b>God's answer</b>





Connect Group questions

**Discuss: What joys do you experience when you pray?**

***Food for thought***

*Prayer is a normal part of being God's people, as seen in Jesus' use of "when you pray" rather than "if you pray". On a scale of 0-10, how "normal" is prayer in your life?*

0 ----- 10

**Read Matthew 6:5-15.**

1. What attitudes towards prayer should we avoid?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In what ways is Jesus' model of prayer different to the hypocrites (the Jewish religious leaders) and the pagans (unbelieving Gentiles)?

**Think it through: Why do you think Jesus teaches his disciples to address God as "our Father" rather than "my Father"?**

3. What impact does adding the description "in heaven" to describe "our Father" have on the way we consider who it is that we're praying to?

**Read Galatians 4:6-7 and Romans 8:14-17.**

*Did you know? The word Abba is the common word that children in Jesus' day used to address their father. It means "dearest father".*

4. What sort of relationship do we have with God? How might this be similar or different to earthly fathers?
5. What role does the Holy Spirit play? Why should this give us confidence as we approach God in prayer?
6. When we pray, how do we balance between God's majesty, power and glory, with God's gentle presence and intimacy with his children?

**Committing to change**

As a result of Sunday's sermon and today's Bible study, write down what change(s) you want to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk this coming week.

**Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together, in light of a deeper appreciation for the line "Our Father in heaven".**



## Connect Group questions

**Discuss: How did you go with the change you wanted to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk in the past week?**

### ***Food for thought***

*"Hallowed" comes from the Old English word "halgian," which means "to make holy" or "to sanctify." In the context of the Lord's Prayer, it signifies acknowledging and honouring the holiness, sacredness, and greatness of God's name. On a scale of 0-10, how much of your personal prayer is spent "hallowing" God?*

0 ----- 10

### **Read Isaiah 6:1-5.**

1. What aspects of God's character is emphasised here?
2. How should this impact the way we view ourselves and God when it comes to praying to our Father **in heaven**?

### **Read Exodus 20:7 and Leviticus 22:31-33.**

3. Why does the LORD God give Israel these commandments?
4. What does it look like to hallow God's name in our prayers?

**Read Ezekiel 36:16-38.**

5. In what ways have God's people failed to hallow God's name?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How did the very presence of God's people in the foreign lands profane God's name?

**Think it through: In what ways can God's holy name be profaned / blasphemed / misused / dishonoured / brought into disrepute in today's context?**

7. What does it look like to hallow God's name in our day-to-day life?

**Committing to change**

As a result of Sunday's sermon and today's Bible study, write down what change(s) you want to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk this coming week.

**Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together, in light of a deeper appreciation for the line "Hallowed be your name".**



Connect Group questions

**Discuss: How did you go with the change you wanted to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk in the past week?**

***Food for thought***

*A simple way of thinking about the kingdom of God (or the kingdom of heaven) is that it is God's reign and rule. On a scale of 0-10, how much time do you spend asking for God's reign and rule to show itself in your personal life (and our world)?*

0 ----- 10

**Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17.**

1. What do we learn about the kingdom that God will establish?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do God's promises to David find their fulfilment in Jesus (Mark 1:14-15)?

**Read Matthew 26:36-46.**

3. What do you think is God's will for Jesus' life? How does that fit into 2 Samuel 7 (especially v14-16)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What do we learn about Jesus' attitude of submission to God's will?

**Think it through: At the cross, God pours out his cup of wrath on Jesus – the Father answered the Son’s prayer with a “no”. How does this impact our attitude and expectations of prayer and God’s response (especially when the answer is “no” or “not yet”)?**

**Read Colossians 1:9-23.**

5. In light of this passage, what sort of things should we pray for:

a. Ourselves?

b. Others?

c. Our world?

6. How does knowing God’s will and plans for the world change the way we live?

**Committing to change**

As a result of Sunday’s sermon and today’s Bible study, write down what change(s) you want to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk this coming week.

**Conclude by praying the Lord’s Prayer together, in light of a deeper appreciation for the line “Your kingdom come, your will be done”.**





## Connect Group questions

**Discuss: How did you go with the change you wanted to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk in the past week?**

### ***Food for thought***

*On a scale of 0-10, how much of your prayers are focused on earthly and temporary issues (compared to God's eternal concerns)?*

0 ----- 10

1. In what ways do churches and Christians (past and present) try to bring (about) "heaven on earth"? Which of these methods do you agree or disagree with?

**Read Matthew 4:12-17; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 17:20-21.**

2. What do you think Jesus is referring to when he speaks about the "Kingdom of God/Heaven"?
3. This part of the Lord's Prayer "on earth as in heaven" is the second part of the petition that started with "your kingdom come, your will be done". What do you think it means for God to reign and rule on earth (as he does in heaven)?

**Read Ephesians 1:15-23 and 6:10-13.**

4. Is the coming of the kingdom of heaven something that will happen in the future, or is a present reality (and what might this look like)?

5. How do we reconcile Jesus' present rule with the competing authorities?

**Think it through: How much influence should Christians and Christian ethics have on our secular society and its ethical systems?**

6. How does the gospel message and the work of Christ contribute to revealing the kingdom and will of God on earth?

7. How does the prayer for "On earth as in heaven" relate to our future hope in Christ's return and the consummation of God's kingdom?

**Committing to change**

As a result of Sunday's sermon and today's Bible study, write down what change(s) you want to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk this coming week.

**Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together, in light of a deeper appreciation for the line "On earth as in Heaven".**



Connect Group questions

**Discuss: How did you go with the change you wanted to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk in the past week?**

***Food for thought***

*“Give” can come across as demanding. However, because God is our heavenly Father, then we are asking in humility for God to provide for our needs. On a scale of 0-10, how much of your worries and anxieties over daily provisions are you bringing to God?*

0 ----- 10

**Read Exodus 16:1-5.**

1. Why do you think God told the Israelites to gather only enough bread for one day (or for two days before the Sabbath)?
2. What does this teach us about God?

**Read Luke 12:22-31.**

3. In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus tells us to ask God for our daily bread. Why does Jesus instruct us to ask God to provide us with each day’s provisions, rather than a month’s worth?

**Think it through: Does this mean that we shouldn’t plan for the future, since that might be trusting in our own ability to provide for ourselves, rather than God’s provision?**

4. What practical wisdom do the ravens and lilies provide us when it comes to worrying about our daily needs? What could this look like in your prayer life?

**Read John 6:32-35.**

5. How does John 6:32-35 help us understand the greater daily bread that we need?

6. How might this impact what we pray about when we ask for God to meet our needs?

**Think it through: What sort of changes to your prayers you can make so that you can demonstrate trust in God's provision for both your physical needs as well as your spiritual needs?**

**Committing to change**

As a result of Sunday's sermon and today's Bible study, write down what change(s) you want to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk this coming week.

**Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together, in light of a deeper appreciation for the line "Give us today our daily bread".**



Connect Group questions

**Discuss: How did you go with the change you wanted to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk in the past week?**

***Food for thought***

*In our church services, we have a time of confession. We use liturgy from the Anglican Prayer Book as we publicly confess our sins to God in the presence of others. On a scale of 0-10, how often do you personally confess your sins and ask God for forgiveness?*

0 ----- 10

1. Christians should “forgive and forget”. Agree or disagree?

**Read Matthew 18:21-35.**

2. What does it mean to forgive someone?

3. What do the sizes of the two debts show you about the comparison of our debt of sin to God and the debt of hurt we are owed from others?

4. What did it cost God to forgive us and pay our debt?



**Think it through: Is it possible to forgive someone when they haven't repented and asked for forgiveness?**

**Read Matthew 6:12, 14-15.**

5. Why do you think Jesus makes it sound like our forgiveness of others is a condition for our forgiveness from God?

**Think it through: Are there people that you need to forgive and reconcile with this week? What might it look like practically for you to forgive them?**

**Committing to change**

As a result of Sunday's sermon and today's Bible study, write down what change(s) you want to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk this coming week.

**Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together, in light of a deeper appreciation for the line "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us".**



## Connect Group questions

**Discuss: How did you go with the change you wanted to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk in the past week?**

### ***Food for thought***

*Temptations can take shape and form in many ways for different people. On a scale of 0-10, how much do you depend and rely on God in prayer during those times of temptation (compared to using your own will power to resist)?*

0 ----- 10

### **Read James 1:13-15.**

1. What do we learn about:
  - a. God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Ourselves?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Temptation?

**Think it through: Why do you think Jesus starts the petition to the Father with “lead us not into...” rather than “lead us away from...” or “help us resist...”?**

### **Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13.**

2. What sort of temptations did the Israelites face and fall into as they wandered in the wilderness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why does Paul give his readers a warning in verse 12?

4. Verse 13 is often misquoted and misunderstood. People misapply this verse in the context of suffering, believing that God would not allow his children to suffer beyond what they can handle.
  - a. What does the verse actually say?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How does understanding this verse bring you comfort?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Can you think of a time when you were tempted, and God led you and provided a way out so that you could endure those temptations?

**Think it through: If we are to depend and rely on God in prayer to lead us not into temptation, how much responsibility do we have in resisting temptation and sin using our own strength and methods?**

5. What practical advice do you have for others in your group on how we can work alongside God's Holy Spirit to:
  - a. Not put ourselves in areas of temptation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Actually resist while facing a temptation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Look to God's grace and forgiveness when we fall into sin and temptation?

**Committing to change**

As a result of Sunday's sermon and today's Bible study, write down what change(s) you want to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk this coming week.

**Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together, in light of a deeper appreciation for the line "Lead us not into temptation".**



Connect Group questions

**Discuss: How did you go with the change you wanted to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk in the past week?**

***Food for thought***

*On a scale of 0-10, how much pressure do you feel (internally and externally)  
from the forces of evil in your life?*

0 ----- 10

1. What are the ways in which God delivers his Old Testament people from evil?

**Read Ephesians 6:10-20.**

2. When it comes to spiritual warfare against the spiritual forces of evil, why do you think we need to put on the full armour of God?

3. How does prayer (for yourself and for others) fit in?

**Read John 17:6-19.**

4. Jesus prays for both his followers during his time on earth, and for those who will come later. What does Jesus' prayer for his followers reveal about his desire for his people?

5. In what ways do we see and experience evil in our world today that requires God's deliverance?

**Think it through: How are "lead us not into temptation" and "but deliver us from evil" related?**

6. In what ways do we see and experience evil in our own lives today that requires God's deliverance?

**Think it through: How does Jesus' life, death, and resurrection provide the ultimate deliverance from evil?**

7. In what ways should our understanding of Christ's victory over evil influence our:
  - a. View of evil in our world?
  - b. Prayers for deliverance from temptation and sin?

**Committing to change**

As a result of Sunday's sermon and today's Bible study, write down what change(s) you want to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk this coming week.

**Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together, in light of a deeper appreciation for the line "Deliver us from evil".**





## Connect Group questions

**Discuss: How did you go with the change you wanted to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk in the past week?**

### ***Food for thought***

*The final sentence of the Lord's Prayer – "For the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen" – is not in the earliest manuscripts of the Gospel of Matthew.*

*Most Bible scholars believe that these words were not an original part of Jesus' prayer. It was likely added by early Christians as the prayer began to be used in public worship. On a scale of 0-10, how much do you think we should include this in the Lord's Prayer in church?*

0 ----- 10

### **Read Revelation 4:1-11.**

1. In the vision of heaven that John witnesses, what do we learn about God's:
  - a. Kingdom (his right to rule)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Power (his ability and strength to do as he desires)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Glory (his majesty and infinite worth)?
  
2. How does John's vision of heaven help us as we view our threatening and seemingly out-of-control world?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What are the ways in which we take away from God's kingdom, power and glory:
  - a. As individuals?

b. As a society?

4. The twenty-four elders in the vision (v. 4) represent the people of God. What is their role in this scene?

**Think it through: What do you think is the significance of verse 10-11 for us? What does laying down our crowns look like in the earthly realm?**

5. In light of the Lord's Prayer that started with "Hallowed be your name", what practical steps can we take this week to mean it when we pray:

a. Yours is the kingdom (his right to rule)?

b. Yours is the power (his ability and strength to do as he desires)?

c. Yours is the glory (his majesty and infinite worth)?

**Committing to change**

As a result of Sunday's sermon and today's Bible study, write down what change(s) you want to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk this coming week.

**Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together, in light of a deeper appreciation for the line "The kingdom, the glory and the power are yours".**

Week 10: Now and forever, amen.

Sermon notes and reflections

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## Connect Group questions

**Discuss: How did you go with the change you wanted to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk in the past week?**

### ***Food for thought***

*On a scale of 0-10, how much does eternity weigh into your everyday prayer thanksgiving and requests?*

0 ----- 10

**Think it through: Why do you think Jesus included “now and forever” as the second part of the phrase “For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory...”**

### **Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-18.**

1. As we envision a world where God’s kingdom, power and glory cover everything, what in our present experience would be missing from such a world?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What role and impact does the Gospel play in revealing reality, both in the present life and into eternity:
  - a. For the believer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. For the unbeliever?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How should understanding this passage influence our prayers, attitudes and actions towards our unbelieving family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, etc?

4. What comfort is provided when a Christian grasps that God’s kingdom, power and glory already belongs to God, both now and forever?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What changes to your prayers do you think you’ll need to make to align yourself with God’s eternal perspective?

**Think it through: The Lord’s Prayer ends with “amen”. By saying "amen," believers express their unity with the speaker and their endorsement of the words spoken as they align their hearts and minds with God's purposes. Which of the lines in the Lord’s Prayer do you find it hardest to say “amen” to and why?**

6. As we wrap up the series, hopefully we’ve started to see the riches of this prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. As his disciples, share 1-2 things that you have been taught by this prayer this term.

**Committing to change**

As a result of Sunday’s sermon and today’s Bible study, write down what change(s) you want to make to your prayers / prayer life / Christian walk this coming week.

**Conclude by praying the Lord’s Prayer together, in light of a deeper appreciation for the line “Now and forever, amen”.**

My reflections on the “The Disciples’ Prayer” series

Things I learnt

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Things I was challenged by

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Things I've changed or put into practice as a result

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My personal plans to keep growing in my prayer life and Christian walk

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Questions I still have

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# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven,

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,

Now and forever, amen.



St Annes Ryde  
ANGLICAN CHURCH