

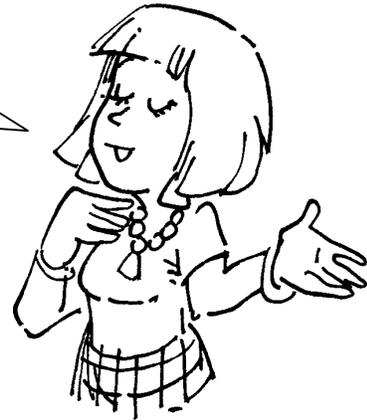
Lesson 4A

The Lord's Prayer



They taught me the Lord's Prayer when I was a child but I still don't understand it.

Why, certainly I know the Lord's Prayer. As a matter of fact, I can say it in 10 seconds flat.



You always hear the Lord's Prayer in church but I don't know why they say it.

I never pray the Lord's Prayer. It seems to me that it's more sincere to pray in my own words.



For the Group Meeting: During this lesson consider answers that you could give to these four people.

1. Do you remember the place in the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus taught his disciples how to pray? It is in the Edicts of Sincerity.
Read Matthew 6:9-13 again. Have you done this? _____

2. Choose the three names often given to this prayer from those in the list below.

<input type="checkbox"/> a. The Sunday Prayer.	<input type="checkbox"/> d. The Ave Maria.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. "Our Father"	<input type="checkbox"/> e. The Lord's Prayer.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. The Prayer of Confession.	<input type="checkbox"/> f. The Prayer of the Kingdom.

3. Now look at Matthew 6:9.
The first phrase of the Lord's Prayer contains a description of God which is there to remind us that we are talking to God our Father. Before we ask God for anything, we ought to remember who he is and what he is like.
Write the first phrase of the Lord's Prayer which reminds us **who** God is and **what** he is like.

4. There are **two** things which we are to remember about God when we pray.
 - a) First of all, we are to remember that God is our _____ so we can tell him everything in complete confidence.
 - b) But, we must also remember that God is in _____. He isn't a human parent. We must approach God with the reverence that he is due.

5. What is the purpose of the description of God at the beginning of the Lord's Prayer?
It is there to remind us a) w_____ God is and w _____ he is like.

6. This first phrase of the Lord's Prayer is followed by a series of petitions. These have been listed below.
 - *Hallowed be your name.*
 - *Your kingdom come.*
 - *Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*
 - *Give us today our daily bread.*
 - *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*
 - *Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*
 How many petitions are found in the Lord's Prayer? _____

Answers

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|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2. b. e. f. | 4. a) Father | 5. who, what |
| 3. Our Father in heaven | b) heaven | 6. 6 |

7. Let's take a closer look.
- The first petition is found at the end of v.9.
Whose name are we asking to be hallowed? _____
 - The second petition begins in v.10.
Whose kingdom are we asking to come? _____
 - The rest of v.10 includes the third petition.
Whose will do we ask should be done? _____
8. So then, the first three of the six petitions do not ask for something for ourselves. Instead, they have to do with _____.
9. The description of God at the beginning of the Lord's Prayer reminds us of
a) w_____ God is and b) w_____ he is like. It is followed by a series of
c)_____ (how many) petitions.
The first [one/two/three] petitions ask for things which have to do with God himself.
10. The second group of petitions has a different emphasis.
- How many petitions are there in this group? _____
 - The fourth petition (see v.11) asks God for daily bread. Who is to receive this bread? _____
 - The fifth petition asks for the forgiveness of certain debts (v.12). Who is asking for forgiveness? _____
 - In v.13, the last petition asks God to keep us from temptation and evil.
Who is asking for protection? _____
11. Therefore, in the second group of petitions we are asking for blessings for: _____
12. a) How many petitions are there in the Lord's Prayer? _____
b) How many petitions have to do with God? _____
c) How many of these petitions have to do with our needs? _____
13. Identify the petitions in the list below. Write the number 1 beside those which belong to

Answers

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| 7. a) God's or our heavenly Father's | 9. a) who | 10. a) 3 |
| b) God's or our heavenly Father's | b) what | b) We are |
| c) God's or our heavenly Father's | c) 6 | c) We are |
| 8. God | d) three | d) We are |
| | | 11. ourselves |
| | | 12. a) 6; b) 3; c) 3 |

the first group of petitions - those which have to do with God; and the number 2 beside those belonging to the second group - those having to do with us.

- a. _____ Forgive our debts.
- b. _____ Hallowed be your name.
- c. _____ Your will be done.
- d. _____ Give us today our daily bread.
- e. _____ Lead us not into temptation.
- f. _____ Your kingdom come.



Now let's take a look at each one of the petitions in turn.

14. **THE FIRST PETITION:** is at the end of v.9. It asks that the name of God be _____.
15. When we pray, "hallowed be your name," we are asking that God be honored. Christians honor God when they do his will in obedience to his word. So then, God's name is hallowed when:
- a. _____ His name is used as a swear word.
 - b. _____ Christians care for the sick and the poor.
 - c. _____ Believers learn to love their neighbors.
 - d. _____ Christians work hard to take care of their family's needs.
 - e. _____ He is worshipped and praised with a sincere heart.
16. The first petition in the Lord's Prayer asks that God will receive _____.
17. **THE SECOND PETITION:** is found in v.10. What is it?

Answers

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|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 13. b) c) f) = 1. | 15. b. c. d. e. | 17. That God's kingdom will come. |
| a) d) e) = 2. | 16. honour | 18. Your kingdom |
| 14. hallowed | | |

18. Of course the kingdom of God has come already to those who obey and follow Jesus, but it will come even more fully. This happens to the extent that we accept his reigning more completely each day; and, of course, one day he will return and be seen by all as absolute King.

What petition do we make to God when we ask him to rule over this world in ever-increasing measure? _____

19. Which of the following statements describes God's kingdom coming more completely? God reigns more completely when:

A. each believer submits himself more and more to the control of Christ in his life.
 B. each unbeliever accepts Christ and submits himself for the first time to Christ's control.

- a. Only "A"
 b. Only "B"
 c. Both "A" and "B"
 d. Neither "A" nor "B"

20. Explain the meaning of the petition, "Your kingdom come."

21. **THE THIRD PETITION:** is found in the rest of v.10. It asks that the a) _____ of God be done, on b) _____ as it is in c) _____.

22. Many people think that prayer is just an attempt to get something we want for ourselves. Of course, that is all wrong. This third petition is an example for all our prayers. We do not ask for what we want, but instead we ask for what _____ wants to be accomplished.

23. Read Matthew 7:11. Here Jesus says that human parents, who are **not** perfect, still give a) _____ to their children. So then, how much more will our heavenly Father, who is perfect, give b) _____ things to his believing children when they ask.

Answers

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|------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 19. c. | come | idea of God's rule being shown | 23. a) good gifts, |
| 20. Your answer should include the | | more in the lives of believers and | b) good |
| | | unbelievers. | 24. a) No |
| | 21. a) will | | |
| | b) earth | | |
| | c) heaven | | |
| | 22. God | | |

24. a) When a child asks his father for something the father knows to be dangerous, for example a loaded pistol or poison, does the father give it to him?
 _____ Yes. _____ No.
- b) Of course not, because although the child doesn't know the danger involved, the father certainly does. In other words, the father **knows** what is best for the child and acts in the child's best interest.
 When we ask for something harmful from God (who is more loving and much wiser than any human parent), will he give it to us?
 _____ Yes. _____ No.
- c) Why not? Because although we don't always know what danger might be involved, God, our heavenly Father:
 _____ does know. _____ does not know.

25. Why, then, do we pray that God's will be done on earth?
 Because God _____ more than we do.

26. Now, it is important for us to understand that our acceptance of God's will does **not** mean:
- 1) that we just sit still in the face of some nameless "destiny."
 - 2) that we must endure suffering and say to ourselves "it is God's will, there isn't anything I can do about it."



For instance, we know that it is **not God's will** for the man in the drawing to get wet. How do we know this?

27. Christians don't just throw up their hands and say, "We will pray about it." We should **enthusiastically** desire that the will of God be done, because we know that his will is the **best** possible thing for us. So which of the following are true?
 In the Lord's Prayer we ask that the will of God be done because:
- a. we want to do what God wants.
 - b. God knows best and chooses the best for his believing children.
 - c. it is a very religious attitude to have about the future.
 - d. God gets angry if he does not get his way.

Answers

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| b) No | 26. He has an umbrella he could use | 28. a) Z |
| c) does know | to stay dry. | |
| 25. knows | 27. a. b. | |

28. Beside each petition in List "A," write the capital letter of the phrase in List "B" which belongs with it.

List A**List B**

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|---------|------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| a) ____ | Hallowed be your name. | X. | That God reign more and more in us. |
| b) ____ | Your kingdom come. | Y. | That what God wants, be done. |
| c) ____ | Your will be done. | Z. | That God be honored. |
29. The Lord's Prayer begins with a description of God which reminds us a) _____ God is and b) _____ he is like. This phrase is followed by a total of c) _____ (how many) petitions. The first group of d) _____ petitions asks for things which have to do with e) _____, while the second group of petitions has to do with things we ask for f) _____.
30. The first half of the Lord's Prayer asks for things having to do with God, our heavenly Father. It has to do with his name, his kingdom, and his will. From this we can learn the very practical lesson that a good part of the time we spend in prayer ought to be given over to things which have to do with _____.
31. **THE FOURTH PETITION:** is found in Matthew 6:11. In this petition we are asking God to supply our daily _____.
32. Of course, this does not only mean bread. Here Jesus is talking about all of the material things, as distinct from spiritual, that we need: food, clothing, shelter and so on. Which of the following things would be included in the fourth petition?
- a. Soup.
- b. Forgiveness of sin.
- c. Water to drink and wash ourselves.
33. Most of us earn our own living and buy what we need to eat and wear at a store. We may be tempted to think: "Why should I ask God for these things? They came from the store and I bought them with my own hard-earned cash." According to James 1:17, why do we ask God for material needs, even if we did earn the money to buy them?
- a. To keep God from getting angry.
- b. Just in case what I need isn't in the shop the next time.
- c. Because all things come from God in the first place.

Answers

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|--------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | b) X | b) what | 31. bread |
| | c) Y | c) 6 | 32. a. c. |
| 29. a) | who | d) 3 | 33. c. |
| | | e) God | 34. Feedback in Group |
| | | f) ourselves | |
| | 30. God | | |

34. We know that all the material goods we use have really come from God. We should also understand that God uses many different means to bring these things to us. Man must often work to make good use of the things which God has given to us. Study each of the material things in the list below. In the space provided, write down the kinds of work needed to obtain these goods.

- a) Fish. _____
- b) A car. _____
- c) Clothing. _____
- d) Vegetables. _____

35. **To Discuss in the Group Meeting:**

Material goods in modern society are brought to us through a vast network of people who produce them, transport them, and sell them to us. When we ask God to provide our daily bread, we are really asking him to bless all these people for our benefit and the good of others in our community.

Think, too, about why we are to ask for our “daily” bread.

This suggests that we must not hoard for years ahead. How does this fit in with Jesus’ teaching on where we should store our treasure, in Matthew 6:19-20?

36. The petition, “Give us today our daily bread,” has to do with the material things we need. There are many things which we might like to possess, but which we do not really **need**. Which of the material things in the list below can be included in the fourth petition in the Lord’s Prayer?

- a. Enough clothes to stay warm.
- b. A new suit each time the fashion changes.
- c. Meat at every meal.
- d. Enough food to stay healthy.
- e. The tools we need for our work.
- f. A color television set.

Answers

35. Feedback in Group 37. forgive
36. a. d. e.

37. **THE FIFTH PETITION:** is found in v.12. In this petition, we ask God to _____ us our debts.
38. The word “debts” is used to indicate the wrong we have done to others or to God, in other words our “sins.” In Book 2 of this course (Lessons 2A and 2B), we studied the need to confess our sins to God. This petition makes another point about confession and forgiveness. Read Matt.6:12 carefully. What else does this petition teach us about the forgiveness of our sins?
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39. Do you ever find it difficult to forgive others? We all do at times! However, think about the meaning of this petition in v.12. Is it really possible to receive forgiveness from God without also being willing to forgive others? Read Matthew 6:14,15. Which of the following things does Jesus say about forgiveness here?
- a. It is not necessary to forgive others.
- b. It is necessary to forgive others if God is to forgive us.
- c. It is necessary to forgive others only if they forgive us.
40. Read the parable Jesus told on this subject, in Matthew 18:23-35.
- What do you think about the way this servant acted? Which of these is correct?
- a. He was right in what he did. His fellow servant should pay him everything he owes even if it was just a little.
- b. What he did was wrong. Because he had been forgiven a large sum, he was also required to forgive the others who owed him just a little.
- c. The servant did not do what was right, but the punishment he received was too harsh.
- 41 **To Think About:**
Can you think of someone who has wronged you? Compare the gravity of the things you have done against God’s laws with what that person has done to you. Since God has forgiven all your sins, aren’t you also responsible to forgive that person the comparatively small wrong done to you?
42. When we say to God, “Forgive us our debts,” we are asking God to forgive us our a) _____ and we are also saying that we, in turn, b) _____ others for the wrong they have done us.

Answers

38. We must also forgive those who wrong us. 39. b. 42. a) sins
 40. b. b) forgive

43. **THE SIXTH PETITION:** is in v.13, where we ask God not to lead us into
a) _____ but to b) _____ us from the evil one.
44. 1 Cor.10:13 says: “*And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.*” Which of the following is right then, according to this verse?
 a. God tempts us.
 b. God allows us to be tempted more than our limits.
 c. God won’t let us be tempted more than we can cope with / bear
45. In this last petition we are asking God to keep us from temptation which:
 a. goes on longer than we can bear.
 b. is stronger than we can take.
 c. is not a real threat.
46. Still, we will be tempted in many ways! For this reason, the rest of this petition asks God to keep us from doing wrong. Praying, “Lead us not into temptation” is to ask God to keep us from temptation which is too a) _____ and too b) _____ for us to bear, while praying that we might be delivered from evil (the evil one) is to ask God to keep us from actually letting the temptation overcome us so we commit c) _____.
47. Write the capital letter of the phrase in List “B” alongside the petition in List “A” to which it belongs.

List A**List B**

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|--|--|
| a. _____ Give us today our daily bread. | W. Keep us from temptation which is too long or too strong for us. |
| b. _____ Forgive us our debts. | X. Send us our material needs. |
| c. _____ Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. | Y. Forgive us our sins.
Z. That God may be honored. |

48. Perhaps when we began today’s lesson you were like one of those people on the Title Page of this lesson, and did not really understand the Lord’s Prayer. Now, when you use it, you will understand its meaning and be able to pray it sincerely.
49. Now do Test 4A.

Answers

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|-------------------|-------------|----------|
| 43. a) temptation | 46. a) long | 47. a) X |
| b) deliver | b) strong | b) Y |
| 44. c. | c) sin | c) W |
| 45. a. b. | | |