



Home Group D-Guide

UNDERSTANDING THE LORD'S PRAYER

ICEBREAKER: When is last time you square-danced or line-danced? Rate your dancing ability on a scale of 1-10.

OVERVIEW: Warren Wiersbe wrote about the Lord's Prayer, "Jesus did not give this prayer to us to be memorized and recited a given number of times. In fact, he gave this prayer to keep us from babbling on. Jesus did not say, 'Pray in these words.' he said, 'Pray like this'; that is, 'Use this prayer as a pattern, not as a substitute.' The purpose of prayer is to glorify God's name and to ask for help to accomplish his will on earth. This prayer begins with God's interests, not ours: God's name, God's Kingdom, and God's will. We should not ask God for anything that will dishonor his name, delay his Kingdom, or disturb his will on earth." In this discussion we will deepen our understanding of The Lord's Prayer and learn more about excelling in prayer.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Ephesians 1:15-20; 3:14-19.
 - Make as many observations about prayer as you can from these passages. Answer Who? What? When? Where? How? and Why?
 - What does Paul pray for?
 - How can you incorporate these requests into your own prayer life?
 - What does this passage teach about the Christian life?

3. Have you ever witnessed an answer to prayer?
4. In your own words, briefly explain the meaning of each request in The Lord's Prayer.
 - *May Your name be kept holy:*
 - *May Your Kingdom come soon:*
 - *May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven:*
 - *Give us today the food we need:*
 - *And forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us:*
 - *And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one:*
5. Describe your current prayer life. What would you like to change?
6. What struggles do you have with prayer? What makes prayer challenging for you?
7. Of the 6 ways to excel in prayer listed in the sermon last Sunday, which are you the best at? (Daily prayers; unceasing prayers; corporate prayers; evangelistic prayers; simple prayers; intercessory prayers.) Which is most difficult for you? What do you need to do to grow?

Remember that God does not test us to find out something He doesn't already know. He knows it all. God tests us so that we can determine the strength of our faith and discover the areas where God wants us to grow.