

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modeling Your Prayer Life
After The Prayer Life of Jesus



Lord's Prayer Curriculum
www.missionarlinton.org

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Forgiveness

Memory Verse:

And when you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have against anyone, so that your Father in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done. Mark 11:25 (GNT)

Lesson Goals:

- #1 - Memorize the Lord's Prayer.
- #2 - Teach the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.
- #3 - Encourage students to put into practice what they have learned from the Lord's Prayer.

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners
Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Matthew 6:12, 14-15
Luke 11:2

Forgiveness

Matthew 6:12

So far in our study of the Lord's Prayer we have learned that, to be able to pray this prayer, to be able to ask anything of God, He must be our Father, your Father and that His name is to be made holy. We also learned that God reigns over a kingdom and His children, those of us who have turned to Him as Father, are His subjects. As subjects of this kingdom, we should obey the king's commands and wishes. We have also learned that God wants to hear about the things we need, like food. We ask Him for these things because He is our Provider.

There is another need that we have and the next part of the Lord's prayer teaches us how to ask for it. It says, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." (Matthew 6:12 NIV) So, we are to ask God for forgiveness, but we are also to offer the same kind of forgiveness to others. Let's wait a minute to talk about forgiveness, though, so we can talk about debts and debtors. A debt is something someone owes and a debtor is the one who owes a debt. So, to owe a debt means that we haven't paid what is due. This word *debt* that we find in the Lord's Prayer is one of the words the Bible uses for sin. All of us have sinned. The penalty for sin is death. That is what we owe and none of us have paid it. That is where forgiveness comes in! We owe a debt we can't begin to pay. In turn, Jesus paid a debt He didn't owe! He could do it because He had never sinned like you and I have. (Hebrews 4:15) He did it when He willingly died on the cross. That is how Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven!

Did you know that as Jesus breathed His final breaths on the cross He said, "It is finished." What that really means is "paid in full."* Have you ever shopped somewhere, maybe with a lady who sells candy or with the ice cream man, that let you keep a tab? That person wrote down the price of what you took and maybe later your mom or dad paid for the things you bought.

You and I have built up a tab, or "list," of sins during our lives. We could never pay it all off, but someone who loves us very much has already made the payment. He paid it in full! God loved you so much that He gave His son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we can be forgiven of our sin. "So let's walk right up to Him and get what He is so ready to give." (Hebrews 4:16 MSG)

When you seek God to save you from your sins, those sins are removed from you, as far away as the east is from the west and the two of those never meet! (Psalm 103:12) So, if we should ask God to forgive us when we fail to do what He wants us to do, what sins are left to ask forgiveness for? Why, the new ones that we struggle with every day. These are sins like not obeying your mom when she asks you to take the trash out, talking back to your dad when he corrects you, cheating on a math test or taking something that isn't yours, and many, many others. First John 1:9 says, "God is faithful and fair. If we admit that we have sinned, He will forgive us our sin. He

will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure.”

Jesus instructs us to ask for God to forgive our debts, “as we forgive our debtors.” Did you notice how we should ask for God’s forgiveness? Our request of forgiveness should come after we have offered it to everyone else and we are asking God to forgive us the same way we have forgiven others. It is a reminder to offer others what God has so freely offered us! This idea is the only thing Jesus repeats after the Lord’s Prayer. Read Matthew 6:14-15. It appears that God chooses to forgive us in the same way that we forgive others. “To ask God for what we ourselves refuse to men is to insult Him.”** So, how should we forgive others and what should we forgive them for? Well, if you are asking for God to forgive you the way you forgive others, then you will want to forgive and forget about it. That means things like forgiving your brother when he hits you and not reminding him, or your parents, about it constantly. It means forgiving a friend for telling lies about you and not doing the same to him/her. This is not easy to put into practice. It goes against everything the world teaches us, but we have the best example to follow, Jesus. Even on the cross, Jesus was asking forgiveness for those who nailed Him there!

There is one more thing. There is the idea in this verse of asking for forgiveness every day, just as we ask for bread. It should be a way of life for us. In 1 John 1:9, that we looked at earlier, it tells us that God is faithful and fair. He will forgive our sins. How about you? Will you forgive the sins of others?

**Tetelestai*

**Jamieson, Fausset and Brown: Matthew 6, www.blueletterbible.org

***Tetelestai-Paid in Full, Index to Resources on John. http://www.preceptaustin.org/tetelestai-paid_in_full.htm

YOU can PRAY like Jesus, too!

“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12 NIV) This is one prayer Jesus didn’t need to pray. Jesus was tempted like we are, but He never sinned. Jesus knew that we would sin and thankfully He taught us how to come to God and ask for forgiveness. At the same time He mentioned our forgiveness of others. He showed us that it is important to have a forgiving heart when we seek God’s forgiveness for our own sins.

Our memory verse says, “And when you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have against anyone, so that your Father in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done.” (Mark 11:25) Before you begin to pray, let go of the things that others have done to you. Then, come to God and talk to Him. Won’t you start today?

Next Week: Deliverance From Evil

ACTIVITIES

- **Memory Verse Activity** - Encourage students to make a list of the things that have hurt them, that they have against someone else. If possible, do this on a small white board with dry erase markers. Discuss 1 John 4:20 and Isaiah 43:25. Encourage each student to go through each thing on their list and forgive the person who did it to them, then wipe the white board clean. Be sensitive to your students hurts.
- Write the word “FORGIVE” on small, flat rocks. Review the lesson.
- Provide S’mores for snack. Encourage your students to forgive and then forgive “s’more.” For a S’mores Craft layer a cotton ball on a small square of chocolate brown craft foam, all on top of a medium square of sandpaper. Attach a tag labeled with Matthew 6:12 and “Forgive and Forgive S’more.”
- **Object Lesson:** Not forgiving is like carrying a heavy weight. Ask a volunteer to put on a backpack. Then, have other students ask the first volunteer, “Will you forgive me?” Have the first volunteer answer “no.” Add weight to the back pack each time. As the first volunteer continues to be unforgiving, the burden becomes obviously difficult. Then, begin to remove the weight. Every time one is removed have the first volunteer say, “I forgive you.” Discuss this with your students and discuss the relief that comes with forgiveness.
- **For more training:** Read Matthew 18:21-35. Discuss this in light of Matthew Henry’s quote, “It will be an evidence that He has forgiven us, having wrought in us the condition of forgiveness.” (Matthew Henry)
- **For more training:** The Greek for Jesus’ words “It is finished” is tetelestai. It was used in Roman times when criminals were convicted and sent to jail. A “Certificate of Debt” was issued that named every crime committed. When the prisoner was released, the judge who put him in prison took the “Certificate of Debt” and wrote across it TETELESTAI. The charges for those crimes could never be brought against him again. “When Jesus cried out TETELESTAI He was saying that anyone who places his trust in His sacrificial death on their behalf, receives in essence a “certificate of debt” with the inscription of “tetelestai,” indicating that all their “crimes” (past, present, and future) against God have been PAID FOR IN FULL!”***

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Mark 11:25

Modeling My Prayer Life After Jesus

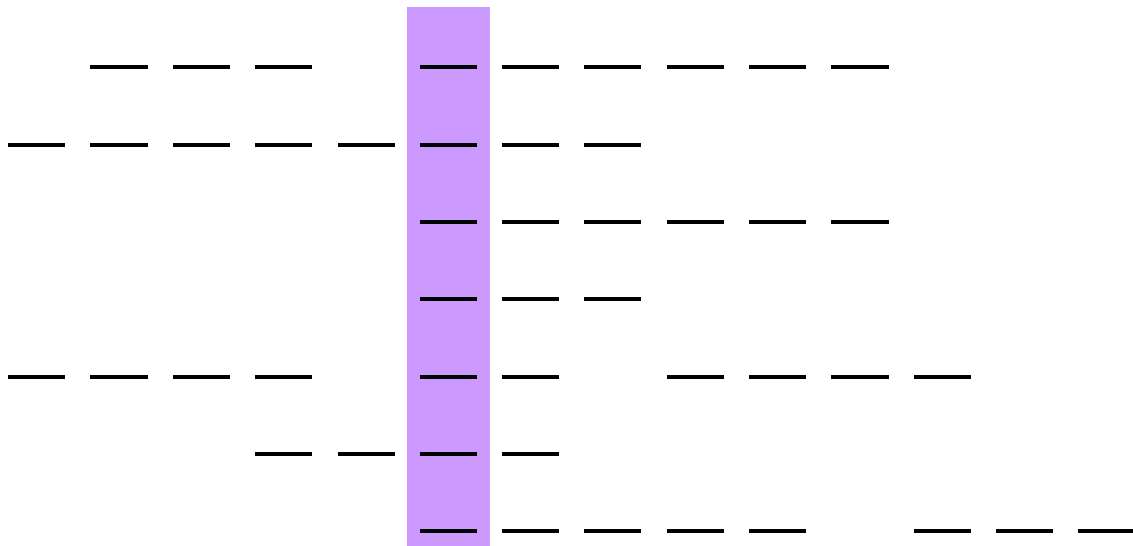
Lesson 6: Forgiveness

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HIDDEN MESSAGE

Can you crack the code to the puzzle and find the Hidden Message?



1. The beginning of the Lord's Prayer; who we pray to
2. Who are we supposed to forgive?
3. To say again; What Jesus did in Matthew 6:14-15
4. He loved you so much that He sent Jesus to pay your debt
5. The meaning of "It is finished."
6. How God feels about you
7. How often should we forgive and ask for forgiveness?

WORD SEARCH

I S C R F F E R I T G E O
A G A I N S T A N Y O N E
W N E W O T R F A T H O R
M O S A L A S A L K O O L
I R H R A N E N L H A S S
N W S D P D M A O U X G M
O H E A P A A E W S D N G
I O W E G N I H T Y N A E
T L N V R D G O D O R M T
A Y O I E P M P L P F O R
L Y R G T R E R C R R C P
Y O U R F A T H E R S J A
V I X O D Y O O T Y A R P
E D I F C I P R E S F F O
R A E M L P S D D D G B E

Find the underlined words in the word search above.

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<u>E</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>						
					<u>R</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>T</u>			
					<u>G</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>D</u>						
<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>		<u>I</u>	<u>N</u>		<u>F</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>L</u>		
			<u>L</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>E</u>							
					<u>E</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>Y</u>		<u>D</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Y</u>

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4. He loved you so much that He sent Jesus to pay your debt
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