



Lent 2024 Bible Study

40 Days with the Lord's Prayer

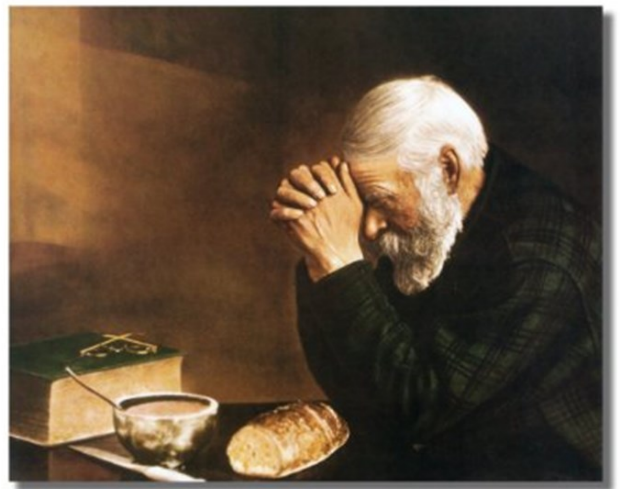
Week 1: What is Prayer? Why the Lord's Prayer?

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" (Luke 11:1)

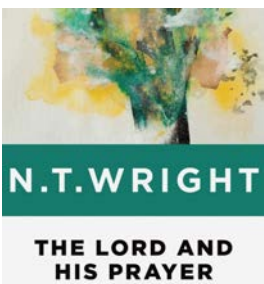
When you look at this picture, what do you see?

Jot down some notes in the space below. You can be as specific or general with your notes.

Questions to ponder: What is prayer? Why do we pray? When might we pray for something?



A Moment with NT Wright: "The Lord and His Prayer"



"But then, once more, it may dawn on us that there's not just a larger world out there; there's a larger God out there. He's not just a celestial cleaner-up and sorter-out of our messes and wants. He is God. He is the living God. And he is our Father. If we linger here, we may find our priorities quietly turned inside out. The contents may remain; the order will change. With that change, we move at last from paranoia to prayer; from fuss to faith. The Lord's Prayer is designed to help us make this change: a change of priority, not a change of content."¹

- **How might prayer or the Lord's Prayer help change our priorities?**

¹Wright, N. T.. *The Lord and His Prayer* . Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.. Kindle Edition. 82 of 915

What does the Bible say about prayer?

- When should we pray? Philippians 4:6-7
- Do we need to know the correct words to pray? Romans 8:24-27
- Do our sins get in between us and God when we pray? Psalm 103:8-13
- Do prayers get answered? Luke 11:9-14

What about the Lord's Prayer?

Where is the Lord's Prayer in the Bible? Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4

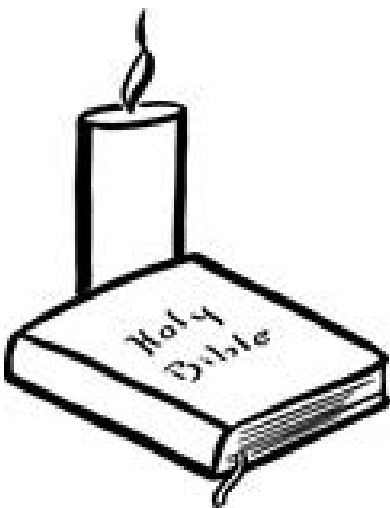
Daily Devotional Texts

Each week pairs one reading with a verse or two from a Psalm

Sundays are excluded in the daily devotionals

Questions to ask each day:

- How does this reading help me think about the weekly theme?
- How might these readings help me grow in faith?
- How do these readings help me think about my own life of prayer?



Day 1 Wednesday: Matthew 7:7, Psalm 42:1

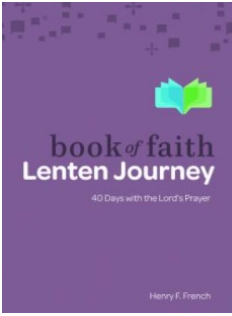
Day 2 Thursday: Ephesians 4:6, Psalm 133:1

Day 3 Friday: Isaiah 64:8, Psalm 139:13-14a

Day 4 Saturday: 2 Corinthians 4:6, Psalm 8:3-4

Day 5 Monday: Luke 6:46, Psalm 143:10

Day 6 Tuesday: Isaiah 42:8, Psalm 9:10



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Week 2: Our Father in Heaven Hallowed be Thy Name

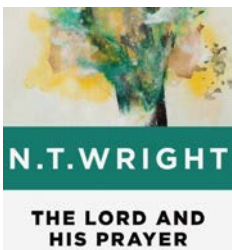
He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" (Luke 11:1)

Question: What is prayer? Let's Review Our Definition.

A Recap from Last Week

- When should we pray? Philippians 4:6-7
- Do we need to know the correct words to pray? Romans 8:24-27
- Do our sins get in between us and God when we pray? Psalm 103:8-13
- Do prayers get answered? Luke 11:9-14

A Moment with NT Wright: "The Lord and His Prayer"



"In a sense, therefore, the first words of the Lord's Prayer, which we examine in this first chapter, represent the goal towards which we are working, rather than the starting point from which we set out."¹

- **What does this quote make you think about the Lord's Prayer?**
- **Does it help you understand the Lord's Prayer to think of it as a journey**

¹Wright, N. T.. *The Lord and His Prayer* . Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.. Kindle Edition. 117 of 915

Our Father in Heaven (Isaiah 64:8)

“The words *father and mother* both make the point Jesus was making when he taught his followers to pray ‘Our Father.’ We are dependent upon God as a child to a parent. We are to obey God as a child obeys a parent, trusting that whatever God asks of us will be good for us. We are to respect and love God as a child respects and loves a parent, when the parental relationship is grounded in love”¹

- Are the words “Our Father” words of law or words of Gospel for you? Why?

Hallowed Be Thy Name (Psalm 143:10)

“God’s name is hallowed whenever the Word of God is taught clearly and purely and we, as God’s children also live holy lives according to it. To this end help us, dear Father in heaven! However, whoever teaches and lives otherwise than the Word of God teaches, profanes the name of God among us. Preserve us from this, heavenly Father! (Luther, *Small Catechism*)

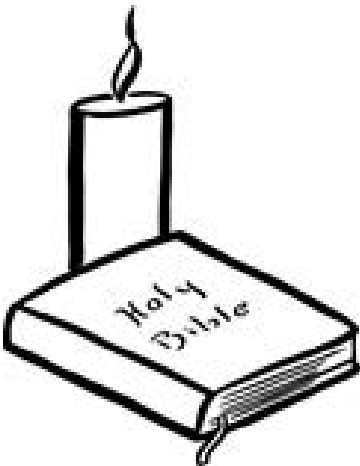
- What would society be like if God’s name were truly hallowed?
- What do you think it means to “profane” God’s name?
- Can you see evidence of God’s name being made holy?



Daily Devotional Texts

Questions to ask each day:

- How does this reading help me think about the weekly theme?
- How might these readings help me grow in faith?
- How do these readings help me think about my own life of prayer?



Day 7 Wednesday: Luke 17:20-21, Psalm 33:4-5

Day 8 Thursday: Matthew 19:14, Psalm 131:2

Day 9 Friday: 2 Corinthians 8:13-15, Psalm 16:7

Day 10 Saturday: 1 John 3:18, Psalm 18:1

Day 11 Monday: Luke 4:42-43, Psalm 119:10-11

Day 12 Tuesday: Luke 13:29, Psalm 48:1

¹Henry French, *Book of Faith Lenten Journey, 40 Days with the Lord's Prayer* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2009), 25.



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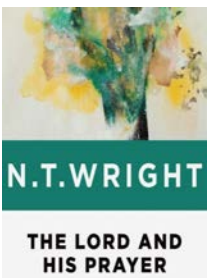
Week 3: Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" (Luke 11:1)

Where is the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4)

A Moment with NT Wright: "The Lord and His Prayer"

NT Wright says that there are four central issues in this petition:¹



This prayer encompasses everything we need

"Clear your mind to pray, and what do you find? A buzz of fears and hopes and wants and puzzles; behind that, perhaps, some deep sadnesses; some real anger — and, I hope, some real joy, some true delight."

How does it make you feel that God already knows your deepest needs and desires?

This petition reminds us to be specific in our prayer

"Once we put the prayer for daily bread within the whole kingdom-prayer where it belongs, to turn then to the specific things we honestly need right now is not trivial. It is precisely what children do when they love and trust the one they call 'Father'.

What are some very real needs in your life right now?

This petition reminds us to be pray beyond our own needs

"It is impossible truly to pray for our daily bread, or for tomorrow's bread today, without being horribly aware of the millions who didn't have bread yesterday, don't have any today, and in human terms are unlikely to have any tomorrow either."

How might this understanding help us in our lives of faith?

This petition sees its fulfillment when we gather at the table for the Eucharist

In the Eucharist, we "remember" Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection

In the Eucharist, we bring our own hurts and needs and lay them at God's feet

In the Eucharist, we bring our concerns for those who do not have enough and ask God to help us not only see the need but also be the ones to help meet it.

The “I Am” Statements in the Gospel according to John

1. I am the True Vine (John 15:1-17)
2. I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-30)
3. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (14:1-17)
4. I am the Light of the World (John 9:1-41)
5. I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:1-45)
6. I am Living Water (John 4:13-14, 26b)
7. I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35-40)

Give us Today Our Daily Bread...From Luther's Large Catechism

This prayer covers all three areas/spheres of our life: household, government and church. The devil desires to do us harm in all three of these areas.



“But especially in this petition directed against our chief enemy, the devil, whose whole purpose and desire it is to take away or interfere with all we have received from God...In short, it pains him that anyone should receive even a mouthful of bread from God and eat it in peace. If it were in his power and our prayer to God did not restrain him, surely we would not have a straw in the field, a penny in the house, or even an hour more of life-especially those of us who have the Word of God and would like to be Christians.” (LC 80-81)

Even though we will receive these things without our prayer, God asks us to pray for them in order that we might remember the one from whom we received our bread. (LC 451.83)

What jumped off the page at you in Luther's description of this petition?

What are some differences that you notice between N.T. Wright and Luther?

Daily Devotional Texts

Questions to ask each day:

- How does this reading help me think about the weekly theme?
- How might these readings help me grow in faith?
- How do these readings help me think about my own life of prayer?



Day 19 Wednesday: Proverbs 22:9; Psalm 104:14-15

Day 20 Thursday: 2 Corinthians 9:8-9; Psalm 104:27-28

Day 21 Friday: Luke 15:1-2; Psalm 36:7-9

Day 22 Saturday: Deuteronomy 30:14; Psalm 119:105

Day 23 Monday: John 15:4-5; Psalm 42:1-2

Day 24 Tuesday: Acts 2:42; Psalm 128:1-2

¹Henry French, *Book of Faith Lenten Journey, 40 Days with the Lord's Prayer* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2009), 25.



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Week 4: Forgive Us as We Forgive

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" (Luke 11:1)

Where is the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4)

*A Moment with NT Wright: "The Lord and His Prayer"*¹



"Forgiveness is richer and higher and harder and more shocking than we usually think. Jesus' message offers the genuine article, and insists that we should accept no man-made substitutes."

- What "man-made" substitutes might NT Wright be talking about?
- How might people go out of their way not to ask for/grant forgiveness?

"So the Lord's Prayer contains, at this point, a most unusual thing: a clause which commits the pray-er to actions which back up the petition just offered. 'Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.' Prayer and life are here locked indissolubly together. And, please note: this isn't saying that we do this in order to earn God's forgiveness. It's a further statement of our loyalty to Jesus and his Kingdom. Claiming this central blessing of the Kingdom only makes sense if we are living by that same central blessing ourselves."

- Have you ever thought about this petition in the prayer in this way, that we are asking God to forgive us as we forgive?
- Why might we need to pray to God for help here?

"If sins were forgiven once and for all when Jesus died on the cross, why is there still sin and evil in the world at all? And why should we go on praying this prayer day after day if we say, in creed and hymn, in liturgy and scripture, that it has already been answered?"

- What are your thoughts on these two questions?

¹Wright, N. T.. The Lord and His Prayer (p. 28). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.. Kindle Edition. 36-41.

What Does the Bible Have to Say About This?

1. We Have All Sinned (Romans 3:21-24)
2. You're Fooling Yourself (1 John 1:8-9)
3. Forgiveness is For All Creation (John 3:16-17)
4. Live it Out In Your Life (2 Cor 6:16-17)
5. Go Ahead...Cast the First Stone John 8:2-11)
6. Forgiveness as Ethic (Luke 6:27-38 <37>)
7. Forgiveness from the Cross (Luke 23:13-25, 32-34)

Forgives Us Our Trespases...From Luther's Catechism



"We ask in this prayer that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins nor deny these petitions on their account, for we are worthy of nothing for which we ask, nor have we earned it. Instead, we ask that God would give us all things by grace, for we daily sin much and indeed deserve only punishment. So, on the other hand, we too truly want to forgive heartily and to do good gladly to those who sin against us." (SC 358.15-16, BOC)

"Just as in the previous petitions, God's forgiveness will come about without our prayer. But, our prayer is needed to recognize and accept it." (LC 452.88)

"He has promised us assurance that everything is forgiven and pardoned, yet on the condition that we also forgive our neighbor...if you do not forgive, do not think that God forgives you. But, if you forgive, you have the comfort and assurance that you are forgiven in heaven-not on account of your forgiving, but instead because he has set this up for our strengthening and assurance as a sign along with the promise that matches this petition. (Luke 6:37 and Matthew 6:14)

Even though we will receive these things without our prayer, God asks us to pray for them in order that we might remember the one from whom we received our bread." (LC 453.93-96, BOC)

- *What jumped off the page at you in Luther's description of this petition?*

Daily Devotional Texts

Questions to ask each day:

- How does this reading help me think about the weekly theme?
- How might these readings help me grow in faith?
- How do these readings help me think about my own life of prayer?



Day 25 Wednesday: 1 John 1:8-9; Psalm 65:2-3

Day 26 Thursday: Romans 5:8; Psalm 130:3-4a

Day 27 Friday: Ephesians 4:31-32; Psalm 32:1

Day 28 Saturday: Galatians 6:1; Psalm 53:1-3

Day 29 Monday: Matthew 5:7; Psalm 32:5

Day 30 Tuesday: Jeremiah 31:33a-34; Psalm 51:10-12

¹Henry French, *Book of Faith Lenten Journey, 40 Days with the Lord's Prayer* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2009), 84-97.



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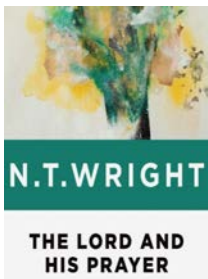
Week 5: Lead Us Not Into Temptation But Deliver Us From Evil. Amen.

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" (Luke 11:1)

Opening Questions

- If we pray for God to lead us "not" into temptation, does that mean that God can lead us into temptation? What is a "time of trial"?

*A Moment with NT Wright: "The Lord and His Prayer"*¹



"We therefore have to come to grips with the fact that Jesus gave this prayer to his disciples, but that when he prayed it himself the answer was 'No'. He put it together with an earlier part of the Lord's Prayer ('Thy will be done'). When he held the two side by side, he found that God's will involved him in a unique vocation. **He would be the one who was led to the Testing, who was not delivered from Evil.**"

- Why might this last sentence be important for us to remember in Lent?
- How might it help us think about this moment in the Lord's Prayer?
- How does Hebrews 2:18, 4:16-17 inform this line of thinking?

What Does the Bible Have to Say About This?

As we read these passages, I want you to consider the following questions:

- 1) Who is being tested within these passages?
- 2) How is God at work within this text?
- 3) How did the person or people respond to being tested?
- 4) Why do you think that the person or group of people is being tested?
- 5) How would you feel if you were the one being tested in this story?

Text 1: Genesis 22:1-19 **Text 2:** Exodus 16:1-35 **Text 3:** Jonah 1:1-3 & Chapter 3

¹Wright, N. T. The Lord and His Prayer (p. 50). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Kindle Edition.

Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil. Amen.



Of the sixth petition, "Lead us not into temptation," Luther says, "It is true that God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief or despair, and other great shame and vice, and that, although we may be attacked by them, we may finally prevail and gain the victory." (SC 358.17-18, BOC)

Of the seventh petition, "But deliver us from evil," Luther says, "We ask in this prayer, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all kinds of evil-affecting body or soul-property or reputation-and at last, when our final hour comes, may grant us a blessed end and take us by grace from this valley of tears into himself in heaven." (SC 358.19-20, BOC)

Of the word "Amen", Luther says, "That I should be certain that such petitions are acceptable to and heard by our Father in heaven, for he himself commanded us to pray like this and has promised to hear us. 'Amen, amen' means 'Yes, yes, it is going to come about just like this.'" (SC 358.21, BOC)

Of these three statements, let us ponder the following questions:

- How does this help me understand who God is? What about myself?
- Why is it important for us to pray this petition?
- What troubles you or confuses you about this petition?

Daily Devotional Texts

Questions to ask each day:

- How does this reading help me think about the weekly theme?
- How might these readings help me grow in faith?
- How do these readings help me think about my own life of prayer?

Day 31 Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 10:12-13, Psalm 26:2-3

Day 32 Thursday: Ephesians 6:18, Psalm 133:1

Day 33 Friday: Romans 7:21-25, Psalm 139:23-24

Day 34 Saturday: Hebrews 4:15-16, Psalm 33:20-21

Day 35 Monday: Romans 8:18-19, Psalm 33:18-19

Day 37 Tuesday: Hebrews 2:18, Psalm 23:4



¹Henry French, *Book of Faith Lenten Journey, 40 Days with the Lord's Prayer* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2009), 100-114.