

## THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

**DATE:** February 3, 2019

**SUBJECT: THE LORD'S PRAYER—A Model: (1) God's Need and Our Need**

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4; Psalms 8:1, 9; 111:9b; Philippians 2:9-11

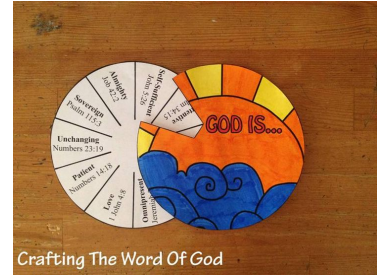
**AIM:** To help the children develop a proper prayer life. The foremost thing of our prayer must be concerning God's need. We must also learn to pray to the Lord and depend on Him daily for our needs.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** Matthew 6:9-11 (**9** You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified; **10** Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, *so* also on earth. **11** Give us today our daily bread.); Matthew 6:33 (But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 171 (Whisper a Prayer); 159 (If I Sing); 4618 (My Prayer); 163 (Praise Ye the Lord); 9326 *BSS Daniel #26* (God Had a Man to Pray); 6407 (Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God); 25 (I Believe God); 1017 *BSS Matthew Vol. 1 #20* (And When You Pray); 193 (Is it Fair?)

**CRAFT IDEAS:** 1) Construct a prayer wheel using the verses from the Lord's prayer, or allow the children to write down items of prayer, including people they can pray for. Assemble with a brad in the center to hold the pieces together.

2) Consider a long-term craft project for the 8 lessons for The Lord's Prayer. For example, older children could write the Lord's Prayer in calligraphy and frame it.



**APPROACH:** *Ask the children:* What does the word “pray” mean? (*Read definition of pray:* “to offer devout petition, praise, thanks, etc., to God”) What do you usually pray for? Do you know the Lord's Prayer? Some may be able to recite it. Compare their prayers with the Lord's prayer. Point out to them that most of what we pray for is concerning ourselves. God wants us not only to pray for our needs, but even more so, to pray concerning His needs.

**CONTENT: “Lord, teach us to pray...”** When the Lord Jesus walked on the earth, His disciples observed that He would often spend time alone in prayer. They realized that He knew God in a very special way and had a very close relationship with Him. Once, after He had finished praying, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray...” (Luke 11:1). The Lord then gave His disciples a model, or pattern, of prayer: **“You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified; Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, *so* also on earth. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” (Matt. 6:9-13)** The Lord Jesus gave us this prayer to guide us and teach us how to pray; it was not given for us to merely repeat. As a pattern for us, it cares first for God's need (His name, His kingdom, and His will); second, for our need (daily bread); third for our relationship with God and with men (forgiveness); and fourth, for our deliverance from Satan the evil one (delivering us from temptation). This lesson covers the first and second part of the Lord's prayer (Matt. 6:9-11).

### I. God's Need

**A. Your name be sanctified.** The name of God our Father means so much to us! God's name represents His person. He is not only our wise and powerful God, the Creator. He is intimately and lovingly related to us. He is our dearly beloved Father! We who believe in the Lord must pray that our heavenly Father's name would be sanctified on the earth. To sanctify is to make holy or to set apart from anything common. Whatever is sanctified is different, distinct, and special. When God came to the earth and was born as a man, He was called Jesus (John 1:1, 14; Matt. 1:21). His name has been given the highest place in the whole universe (Phil. 2:9). However, although His name is exalted in heaven, it is still not “sanctified” in the earth. Some misuse or even despise the name of Jesus. We need to sanctify His name because His name is above every name. Therefore, we should not call upon the Father or speak the name of the Lord in a common way. Rather, when we say, “Father” or “Lord Jesus” we say these names in a sanctified way. We should honor His name just as we honor Him. His name should be above all names to us. All around this earth, there are many names that are honored, those of great men, presidents, kings, etc. But none should be honored more than God's name; we should not allow any other name to rival our Father's name.

**B. Your kingdom come.** The Lord Jesus also taught His disciples to pray that God's kingdom would come to the earth, just as it is in the heavens. This tells us that there is a great difference between the heavens and the earth. Our Father's kingdom is ruling in the heavens, but it has not yet come to the earth in full. For this reason, we who believe in the Lord must pray that His kingdom would come to the earth. Today, on earth, so many people reject the heavenly King, our Lord Jesus. This is why the earth has so many problems. Wherever people love and obey the Lord Jesus, God's kingdom is there. The first place God's kingdom must come on earth is in each one of our hearts. Each time we allow Him to rule in us and over us in so many decisions, His kingdom comes a little more on earth. One day His kingdom will come in full and will fill the whole earth. Until then we want to allow His kingdom to come and to grow in our hearts.

**C. Your will be done.** Our heavenly Father has a desire and has a will. We should pray that His will be done on earth as in heaven. God created us with a free will. He did not create pre-programmed robots. With our feelings, we like certain things and dislike others. With our mind we can think about things. And with our will we choose things. What we choose with our will is very important. As God's children, we should realize that the most important thing is not what we want for ourselves. God's will is first and foremost. A person who is self-willed is stubborn and only cares for his own will. If we always insist on having our own way and only care about doing our own will, how can God's will ever be done on earth as it is in heaven? The longer we allow our will to be stubborn, untamed, and rebellious, the longer we hinder God's will from being done on earth.

## **II. Our Needs.**

The first concern in our prayer to the Father is for His need and His interests. Man was created for God and our first concern and prayer must be for Him. Then, we may pray for our primary need as human beings: our daily bread. "Bread" firstly speaks of our daily material needs, especially physical food. We are to pray for our daily food or other needs each day. As God's beloved children, we do not need to worry or pray about our needs for the next day or the next week, but simply pray for our needs day by day.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just **one or two applications** which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

- **Praying for God's need first.** In our prayer, we must learn to take care of God's need first. Because we are often self-centered, our prayers for the most part concern us. We should give the Lord the first place by turning and opening our hearts to Him and considering His needs.
- **Sanctifying the Lord's name.** We can sanctify God's name by our behavior at home, at school and in the meetings. For example, when we pray or while others are praying, we should not fool around, but we should honor the Lord's name by listening or praying. We should not use the Lord's name in vain. We may hear it at school from friends and adults, but we should always revere and honor the Lord's name.
- **Our heavenly Father has a desire and has a will.** As His name is sanctified (set apart, made special, loved, and treasured) in us, we will spontaneously become submissive to His kingdom and authority. We will not rebel against Him, or our parents, or anyone else who is in authority. We will allow His Kingdom to come in our hearts and lives. At that time His will can be done on earth (in us), as it is in heaven.
- **Praying for our daily needs.** As we pray for God's desire and need, we should also pray to Him each day for our daily needs, especially our physical food. We must learn to pray with thanksgiving and be grateful for all food set before us on the table. We should not be picky and complain about it. As we pray for our "daily bread" each day, we should remember that the Lord wants to supply our spiritual need as well as our physical need. We should thank Him each day for His generous supply and loving care for us.

(Although the application is at the end of the lesson, it can be woven throughout the content of the lesson. There is no need to wait until the end of the lesson to apply the points practically for the children.)

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God's Economy*—Vol. 4, Summer Lessons, Lessons 1-6, and the Church in New York City Children's Meeting lessons: 5/30/82; 9/2/90; 8/9/98; 8/11/02; 2/10/08; 2/02/14