

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: February 10, 2019

SUBJECT: THE LORD'S PRAYER—A Model: Our Relationship with God and Man (1 of 2)

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4a; Psalms 38:18 (“anxious because of” can mean “grieved for” or “will be sorry for”); Proverbs 28:13; Psalms 86:5; James 5:16a; Leviticus 6:2-5; Isaiah 59:2

AIM: To show the children that in our prayer the Lord wants us to take care of our sins (or debts) by our asking for forgiveness.

MEMORY VERSES: Luke 11:4a (And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone indebted to us.); Proverbs 28:13 (He who covers his transgressions will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.); Psalms 86:5 (For You, O Lord, are good and ready to forgive And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.); James 5:16a (Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another...); 1 John 1:9 (If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.)

SUGGESTED SONGS: 10 (Inside Me); 19 (When We're Kind to Others); 174 (When Ugly Satan Knocks at My Heart's Door); 183 (When God Forgives, He Forgets); 6724 *Bible Story Songs Matthew Vol. 2 Song #18* (Then Peter Came and Said to Him); 9226 *Bible Story Songs David Song #26* (God is Forgiving); 53 (God is Light); 112 (Jesus is Alive); 180 (If We Confess our Sins)

CRAFT IDEAS: (1) *Younger children* - preprint entirety of Lord's prayer on paper and cut a one inch border all around. Mount on construction paper as a “frame” and decorate. (2) *Older children* - write calligraphy or other fancy lettering and make a “scroll” of the Lord's prayer. They can spread this project over a few weeks as we cover the Lord's prayer lessons.

BACKGROUND: In last week's lesson, we saw the Lord's teaching concerning prayer. The Lord's disciples had observed that He often spent time alone to pray. Then once, after He 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)** Last week, we learned that when we pray, we should first take care of God's need and then pray for our need (verses 6-9). This week we will go on to the first part of verse 12: **And forgive us our debts,...**

APPROACH: Ask the children: 1) To define what sin is—make a list together with them of some specific sins. 2) If they ever say, “I'm sorry” when they do something wrong to others.

CONTENT: *Please pray and fellowship over which points to cover. We do not need to cover all the points, especially with the younger children.*

I. Introduction. At times we commit sins against God and trespasses against others. For this reason the Lord taught us to pray concerning our “debts” (Matt. 6:12). When we say or do things that are not proper toward others, we offend them. They feel that we have mistreated them and that we “owe” them something. In this way, we have a “debt” with them. We also fail the Lord in many ways and owe Him for our many “debts”. We build up many debts each day, some consciously and some unconsciously. It is like the dust on a windowsill. The longer we wait to clean it, the dirtier it gets. In order to keep a good relationship with God our Father and with those around us, we need to pray every day to confess our sins and ask for forgiveness so that we may have peace toward God and man. In order for God to hear our

prayers we must first confess our sins. And this includes apologizing to other people and making things right with them.

II. Our Relationship with God. God desires to be with us and be very close to us but one thing which keeps us from being close to Him is sin (Isaiah 59:2). What are some sins? (Refer to the children's list from the Approach.) Lying, stealing, cheating, rebellion, disobedience, disrespect, pride, arrogance, using bad language, laziness, meanness, greed, selfishness, coveting, etc. (Cite practical examples to the children—they should come away with a realization that “I have sinned.”)

When we sin, we offend God and our conscience bothers us. It is telling us that we have done something wrong that needs to be taken care of. We should not ignore that feeling in our conscience. When we sin, we need to repent and confess our sins as soon as possible. We should not make excuses (“I didn’t mean it”, or, “I didn’t think...”), or give any explanation to cover up (“It’s a habit,” or “Everybody does it,” or “He started it first”). For example, being dishonest or lying is sin. If we lie, we must confess that we have lied. We must not try to explain that we just did not quite tell the whole thing (omission) or we just exaggerated (words like *all*, *never*, *always*) a little bit. We must condemn our lying as sin. Prov. 28:13 says, “He who covers his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”

III. Our Relationship with Man

In addition to our relationship with God, we also need to take care of our relationship with man. So when we sin and commit wrongdoings against someone else, we should confess not only to the Lord and ask for forgiveness, but also apologize to the person we have wronged and make things right again. For example:

- **Taking care of relationship with people.** If we have talked back to our parents or complained and whined, we need to repent and apologize to them. If we have mistreated our siblings, we should apologize to them and take care of each other. At school, we need to apologize if we misbehave.
- **We should take care of other people's belongings.** When we are at someone's home and play with their toys or read their books, we should be extra careful not to damage anything. When we borrow a book from the library, we should also take good care of it. If we damage it or lose it, we must tell them honestly what happened and, if possible, even offer to restore it, repay it or repair it. (Lev. 6:2-5)
- **We should ask for permission before using someone's belongings.** Taking things without asking permission is basically a stealing of others' possessions. We should not take things which belong to others without their permission. We should not take craft supplies or items from the meeting hall without asking for permission. It is the same with borrowing things and not returning them. If we borrow anything like a pen, money, books, etc., we must be responsible to return it.
- **Returning lost items.** When we find something which someone has lost, we should try to find out who it belongs to and return it. We should not keep it for ourselves. In some instances, we should just leave the item where it is so if the person comes back to look for it, he will be able to find it. At other times, we should bring the item to a proper authority (parents, teachers, etc.) so that they can help us find the owner.

When we confess our sins, the Lord is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). We should learn not to just confess our sins in a general way, like, “Lord Jesus, forgive me of all my sins”. We should learn to confess them one by one, and maintain a righteous and proper relationship with both God and man.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God's Economy*—Vol. 4, Summer Lessons, Lesson 7, and the Church in New York City Children's Meeting lesson, 6/6/82; 9/9/90; 8/16/98; 8/18/02; 2/17/08; 2/09/14