



INTRODUCTION

Jesus trains his disciples and us in how to pray in a profoundly simple and comprehensive way in the pattern called the Lord's prayer.

**"Our Father in heaven,
 Holy is your name,
 Your kingdom come,
Your will be done earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
 Forgive us our debts,
 as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil."**

Jesus understands this: we become what we pray. If we pray without aim or purpose, our way of life will be directionless. If we pray according to His kingdom priorities and mandate, our life will be transformed to support, follow, and build his kingdom!

There is a twofold dynamic that Jesus introduces in his prayer:

- 1. We are to pray in order to bring the power and purpose of heaven down to earth**
 "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
- 2. We are to pray that the coming reality of Christ's future kingdom would be present today**
 "Your kingdom come."

Prayer is the key to boldness, to open doors for the Gospel, and to deliverance from evil.

USING THE WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Each week we will focus on a different aspect of the Lord's prayer and the kingdom priority it represents. In week four, we look at the fourth line of the Lord's prayer: "Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven those indebted to us."

Kingdom Priority:

In the Bible, forgiveness is described as releasing someone or setting them free. Jesus' acts of healing are talked about in the same way. These are both part of the bigger picture of God releasing creation from imprisonment to sin and death. By forgiving others, we imitate Jesus' attitude towards the whole world: refusing our right to hold them in our debt, and offering them a way back into right relationship and freedom.

Forgiveness is so central to the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus teaches us to pray that God would forgive us in the same measure that we forgive others.

**“Forgive us our debts as we also have
forgiven those indebted to us.”**

DAY
01

“Set [every fiftieth] year apart as holy, a time to proclaim freedom throughout the land for all who live there.” (Lev. 25:10)

God gave Israel rhythms of setting slaves free and forgiving debts. Ask God to show you anyone you are keeping in your debt who needs to be set free.

DAY
02

“Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you.” (Deut. 15:15)

God's call to release slaves and debts is directly tied to how He gave freedom to Israel. Ask God to show you how you've been set free or forgiven.

DAY
03

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Ask God how He wants to involve you in the work Jesus began in releasing captives and setting the oppressed free.

DAY
04

Read Matthew 18:21-35

Talk to God about this teaching and parable. What does it make you feel? Are there points of tension that you feel as you read it?

DAY
05

“If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

God released us from our debt to him, and saved us from our slavery to sin and death. Thank Him for forgiving you.