

## The Lord's Prayer, Luke 11:1 - 13

### Bible Background Notes

The Lord's Prayer is significant in the life of every Christian for many reasons. It's used in virtually every corporate worship service and is a touchstone of familiarity in a variety of settings. It is the prayer Jesus gave us when asked by one of his disciples. And it gives a form of discipline, not just what to pray, but how to pray. As a result, we want our children to do more than memorize these words, we want them to think through their meaning so that they can internalize the prayer for themselves.

Some of the questions we'll be exploring in Sunday School based on the 6 lines of the prayer:

#### **What does it mean to worship God?**

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.*

Jesus teaches us how can we feel close to someone we call holy.

#### **What does God want earth to be like, and how do we help to make it so?**

*Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Jesus teaches us what will need to happen in our own hearts in order for God's kingdom to take place on earth.

#### **What should we ask God for and why?**

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

Jesus teaches us to pray for us (everyone), not just me, and shows us the difference between what we want and what all people need.

#### **What is sin and how do we ask for forgiveness and forgive others?**

*And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

Jesus teaches us about the power of acknowledging when something goes wrong, and God's overwhelming desire to see things made right.

#### **How do we follow God's direction in our lives?**

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

Jesus shows us the lengths God takes to help us do what is right.

#### **What would God's world be like if we all lived the Lord's Prayer?**

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

Jesus teaches us to see that the whole world belongs to God, and it's up to us to share.

On February 10 all the children will have a chance to recite the Lord's Prayer at our third annual Bible Bee. Those wishing to reach for distinction are invited to try signing the prayer, which we'll be learning during our rotation.

Sources:

Craddock, Fred B., Luke; Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching, (John Knox Press: Louisville; 1990).

Halverson, Delia, Teaching the Lord's Prayer, (Abingdon Press: Nashville; 2004).

# **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy  
name.**

**Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it  
is in heaven**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the  
glory forever.**

**Amen.**