

Term 3 2023

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Growth Group Booklet



# GROUNDLED.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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Southside Presbyterian Church



# Some things you should know about this series

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When the disciples asked Jesus how we ought to pray, Jesus gave them the Lord's Prayer. It is a simple and profound prayer that tells about God's heart for prayer.

The Lord's prayer invites us to participate in an intimate relationship with God.

The Lord's prayer invites us to first trust, dependance, reliance and help in God.

This is a series we hope will grow all of us in our faith as we grow deep in God's word.

The aim will be both to go deeper in our understanding of the Lord's prayer and to practice the habit, discipline and joy of engaging our God and Father the way he invites us to.

## **In this series...**

We have 5 weeks on the Lord's Prayer as follows:

Week 1: Our Father in Heaven, Holy is your name.

Week 2: Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Week 3: Give us today our daily bread.

Week 4: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Week 5: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

## **Here's the invitation:**

Do you want to go deeper in your love for God? Do you want to grow in your intimacy with him? Do you want to be grounded in the love of the father?

This series is an opportunity to go deeper in your prayer.

Ask the Lord to do big and amazing things.

Take note of your prayers throughout the series.

Grow in our intimacy and joy of the Lord through prayer.

# #1 Grounded.

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*"Our Father in Heaven, Holy is your name."*

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Kick-off question:

Have you ever seen God answer prayer? What did that look like?

*Definition: Holy - set apart, perfect, sacred.*

*To say 'Holy is your name' is to say God is to be revered, awed, respected.*

*Sometimes translated as 'hallowed'.*

## **Read Matthew 6:5-15**

What jumps out at you from this passage?

In v5-8 - Jesus commands us not to be like the hypocrites nor like the pagans. How did the hypocrites and pagans pray? Why can Jesus' disciples be different?

## **Read Matthew 7:7-12**

What jumps out at you from this passage?

What do these three different words mean when it comes to our Father in Heaven?

Ask:

Seek:

Knock:

What does this passage tell us about our Father?

If God answered all of your prayers in the last week, would anything be different?

# #1 Grounded.

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*"Our Father in Heaven, Holy is your name."*

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## **Considering the anti-Lord's Prayer:**

What would the implications be if our understanding of this line was the opposite:

- If God wasn't a father:
- If God wasn't in heaven (not sovereign)
- If God wasn't holy (not creator but creation)
- If God wasn't perfect and good

## **Application:**

Does anything change for you to see prayer as an on-going conversation rather than a one off moment?

What moments in your life could you take 20 seconds to *ground* yourself in the Lord's Prayer? (ideas from Sunday included: when you use your phone, teeth/bathroom duties, driving etc.)

If your prayer habits were recorded in the last week, what do they say about how you view prayer?

Would you say one of the following:

- I see prayer primarily as time with my relational Father
  - I see prayer primarily as a religious duty
  - I see prayer primarily as a means to an end (to get stuff)
  - I see prayer primarily activate in the worst case scenario
- I see prayer as something else (explain)

# #1 Small group prayer

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## **My prayer points:**

What is something to pray from the **study** tonight?

Who are the people you're on **mission** to and what can we pray?

What is something we can pray for from your **life** this week?

# #1 Small group prayer

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**My small group's prayer points:**

# #2 Trust

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*"Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

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Kick-off question:

Did you see any of the following in prayer this week:

- Growth in closeness with the Father?
- Answers to prayer?
- Peace?

## **Read Matthew 14:6-20**

What strikes you about Jesus' reaction to John's death?

When faced with difficulty (particularly serious griefs or hardships), have you found prayer a joy or a struggle and why?

## **Read Matthew 14:22-33**

What stands out around Jesus reaction after the crowds are dismissed? What would be your instinctive reaction?

How do you think the disciples felt being left alone by Jesus, in the storm, with the appearance of a ghost approaching them?

Why are both the presence of Jesus and the power of Jesus important in the middle of the storm?



## #2 Trust

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***"Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."***

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### **Considering the anti-Lord's Prayer:**

What would the implications be if our understanding of this line was the opposite:

- My kingdom come, my will be done.
- If God was not supreme or had no authority over all.
- If God was supreme but not trustworthy or good.
- If God wasn't interested in us.

### **Application:**

Have you found storms in life where it's been hard to pray "your will be done?"

### **Read Matthew 26:36-46**

Which words specifically does Matthew use to describe the way Jesus is feeling in this passage?

What impact does it have on you to consider that when Jesus was betrayed by a friend, abandoned by his closest disciples, and facing death, he felt like this?

Why do you think Jesus prayed "your will be done" 3 times?

When we consider the storms we face in life, where do you find the deepest comfort or help when considering praying the words "Your will be done"? and why?

- The Power of Jesus
- The Presence of Jesus
- The Empathy of Jesus (He's been through storms)

## #2 Small group prayer

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### **My prayer points:**

What is something to pray from the **study** tonight?

Who are the people you're on **mission** to and what can we pray?

What is something we can pray for from your **life** this week?

## #2 Small group prayer

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**My small group's prayer points:**

# #3 Supplication

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***"Give us today our daily bread"***

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**In Today's study we're going to try and spend most our time in prayer.**

**Spend 15 minutes:**

**Kick off:**

**Pray Psalm 65**

As you consider David's prayer - strikes you from this passage?

What are all the things in Psalm 65 that has been provided?

Do you find praying for to God for provision and then praising Him for provision? Why/why not?

# #3 Supplication

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## ***"Give us today our daily bread"***

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**Spend 45 minutes as a group praying for church:**

**Some ideas for prayer points:** *Let these ideas spark further thoughts and prayers.*

- For our young people in creche, kids church and youth as they grow in their faith
- For our creche, kids and youth leaders' pray for guidance, patience and help as they teach our young people
- For our young adults: pray they will stand firm in the faith as they begin to find their place in the world, pray for guidance as they make important life decisions about work, study and relationships
- For the single or married men and women following Jesus
- For the elderly at church: pray they will continue to run the race set before them
- For our mission to reach 1% of our community
- For boldness and courage to invite our friends, family and neighbours to know Jesus, or visit church one Sunday
- For Alpha courses: pray they will run and that people would come to faith.
- For Playgroup, English for Life, Carols and other missional events
- For connections at church: that as a church we'd continue to grow in relationships
- For genuine connections at morning tea and coffee moments each Sunday: pray they will go beyond the surface
- For care in church and at growth group: that we'd be open and love one another
- For newcomers Morning Tea and that we'd help people connect in quickly
- For sermons and growth groups that we'd grow deep in the word
- For our own personal engagement with God in his word and prayer
- For our deep relationships with one another as we can grow in God's word.
- For our teams and team leaders as they serve at church
- For a Committee of Management as they manage finances
- For our music and tech teams are they help us magnify God
- For a whole-hearted devotion and love for God across all ages and stages
- For wisdom and guidance as we plan for next year
- For wisdom and clarity for the future as we consider 2 services.
- For heart shaped generosity as a church
- For protection against the evil one and temptations set before us

# #3 Small group prayer

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**Note:** *You might not have time during this week's study to break into small group and pray. These pages are here to encourage you to message your small group privately to pray for each other.*

**My prayer points:**

What is something to pray from the **study** tonight?

Who are the people you're on **mission** to and what can we pray?

What is something we can pray for from your **life** this week?

# #3 Small group prayer

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**My small group's prayer points:**

# #4 Forgive

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## ***Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us***

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Kick-off question:

Did you see any of the following in prayer this week:

- Growth in closeness with the Father?
- Answers to prayer?
- Peace?

What are your thoughts on this quote: "Everyone says that forgiveness is a lovely idea until he has something to forgive" - CS Lewis

### **Read Matthew 18:21-35**

What is the impact that clearing debts ought to have on the servant?

How do you feel when you read this passage and why?

(Convicted, confused, complicated, excited, sad, weary, worn out, other?)

### **Read Luke 7:36-50**

What does this story in Luke add to our understanding of forgiveness?

Why is it so important that we understand our need for forgiveness when we consider forgiving others?



# #4 Forgive

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***Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us***

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## **Considering the anti-Lord's Prayer:**

What would the implications be if our understanding of this line was the opposite:

- If we weren't sure God would forgive us
- If God couldn't forgive us
- If we didn't understand our need for forgiveness
- If there's no overflow of forgiveness to others

## **Application:**

Consider the following phrase:

"The first to apologise is the bravest, the first to forgive is the strongest."

What's your gut reaction to the above quote? Circle your answer and say why.

False

Mostly False

Mostly True

True

What makes it difficult to apologise?

What makes it difficult to forgive?

How does this line in the Lord's prayer give us real, daily help to grow in forgiveness?

# #4 Small group prayer

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**My prayer points:**

What is something to pray from the **study** tonight?

Who are the people you're on **mission** to and what can we pray?

What is something we can pray for from your **life** this week?

# #4 Small group prayer

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**My small group's prayer points:**

# #5 Fight

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***Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.***

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Kick-off question:

Did you see any of the following in prayer this week:

- Growth in closeness with the Father?
- Answers to prayer?
- Peace?

## **Read Matthew 4:1-11**

What is the heart behind the three temptations Jesus' faces?

How does Jesus fight the temptations of Satan?

Why would Jesus fast before facing temptation from Satan?

## **Read Ephesians 5:10-18**

How does Paul equip us to stand firm against Satan?

How did Jesus show this to be true?

Consider the following:

- Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to face temptation
- We are told to pray 'Lead us not into temptation.'

Why do you think there is a difference?

# #5 Fight

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***Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.***

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## **Considering the anti-Lord's Prayer:**

What would the implications be if our understanding of this line was the opposite:

- Lead us into temptation and deliver us over to the evil one.
- If God doesn't or couldn't lead us
- If Jesus hadn't secured victory for us.
- If Jesus wasn't strong or big enough to deliver.

## **Application:**

CS Lewis said the following:

*"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them."*

Which error do you find yourself leaning towards? What could be the problem with that error?

Some of Satan's temptations in the Bible are:

- Power (Jesus' temptations)
- Food (Jesus' temptations)
- Identity (Jesus' temptation - if you are the Son of God)
- The desire to be rich (1 Timothy 6:9) or pride in possessions (1 John 2:16)
- Pride - To be God/autonomous (Genesis 3)
- Sexual immorality/Lusts of the flesh/eyes (1 John 2:16)
- Disunity among Christians (2 Cor 11:13-15)

Do you think Satan is at work in Australia? Which temptation do you see most often in our country? What about personally?

How can we fight Satan's temptations?

# #5 Small group prayer

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## **My prayer points:**

What is something to pray from the **study** tonight?

Who are the people you're on **mission** to and what can we pray?

What is something we can pray for from your **life** this week?

# #5 Small group prayer

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**My small group's prayer points:**

