

# The Lord's Prayer

# Introduction

# TEACHER GUIDE

  
Luther House  
Confirmation Curriculum



## Our Father who art in heaven

Essential Question: What is prayer? To whom do we pray?

Students will be able to:

- Identify what prayer is.
- Explain why we pray.
- Connect prayer with what God requires from us in the Second Commandment.
- Articulate what God promises regarding our prayers and how this affects the way we pray.
- Identify when you received God's name so that you can "call on Him in the day of trouble."

**Lesson Overview:** In our lessons so far, we've learned the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed. In the Ten Commandments, we learn what God wants from us, but also how we fail to do it. In the Creed, we hear and confess what God has done for us: He has created you, redeems you, makes you holy, and keeps you in faith. But, even though all this is most certainly true, we can't help but notice that we're still sinners. We can't help but notice that we still don't honor our parents like we should or hold our tongues when we ought to. And, when we're honest, we have to admit that even if we could do these things, we don't really want to. Here in this old creation, the promises of what God has done (and does) for us are constantly under attack. The devil, the world, and even our own selves will point to our sin and troubles and claim that the promises of God, all by themselves, are not enough. And even though that's a lie, the attacks don't let up. When we find ourselves in the middle of these attacks (and we will), what are we to do? **Pray.**

But... "we do not know how to pray as we ought" (Romans 8:26).

Your Lord knows you. He knows you don't know how to pray. So He *gives* you the prayer that you will pray when you're under attack. The Lord's Prayer.


## 1. Opening 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 and ever. Amen

## 2. Essential Vocabulary



 **For Teachers: Words matter! Here are a few that you can explore briefly with your students:**

**prayer** - asking God for the things we need; calling upon God to keep His promises

**petition** - a request; to ask for something

**boldness** - lack of hesitation or doubt

**confidence** - complete trust and assurance; certainty that something is true


## 3. Video Lesson: The Lord's Prayer Introduction



This video offers some words about what the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer is all about. As the Introduction sets up this prayer, so does this video set up the lesson.

## 4. SING BOLDLY: Hymn Connection




 ***There is a video that explores a hymn that can be sung during worship, and how the hymn connects to what we believe. The students will learn how this ties into the subject of our lesson, some background of the hymn, and the video will even teach us how to sing it boldly!***

*Teachers:* At this point in the lesson, there will be an option to skip ahead to the **“Memory Work and Wrap Up”** portion. Alternatively, you may lead your group through all or part of **“Here I Hear & Speak”**. This section will equip you to lead group discussion and achieve the lesson’s learning goals. We advise that you explore this option with your small group (or as an individual). This guide has been created primarily to help you as you facilitate the “Hear I Hear & Speak” section. You will be learning about this part of Martin Luther’s Small Catechism, how it comes out of God’s Word in Scripture, and even how to equip our learners how to give that Word to others.

## 5. HERE I HEAR & SPEAK: Discussions and Activities



**Group Activity:** What are some times or occasions when people pray?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** Consider times people typically pray: before meals, at bedtime, first thing in the morning, at catechism class, at a worship service, in a crisis, etc.

Why do you think people pray at these particular times?

When we pray, we ask God for the things we need and that our neighbors need. What are some specific needs that we (and our neighbors) might have? **(You will have a few minutes to generate a list of these needs!)**

**NEEDS & TROUBLES:** We call upon God because we have needs and troubles *and* because He is the one we are to go to for everything we need.

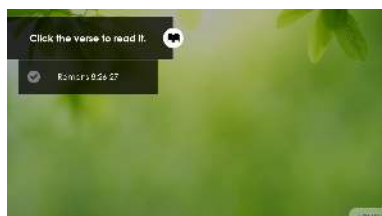
- Which one of the Ten Commandments includes that we should use God's name "in every time of need to call on, pray to, praise and give thanks to God"?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** This is the Second Commandment. "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God" also requires that we are to use God's name to pray to Him in our every need.

- Martin Luther writes, "To pray, as the Second Commandment teaches, is to call upon God in every need. This God requires of us; it is not a matter of our choice." So, we ought to pray because we have needs and because God commands us to pray to Him. But there is a problem here: Do you ever find it hard to pray, especially with a group of people? Why do you think that is?

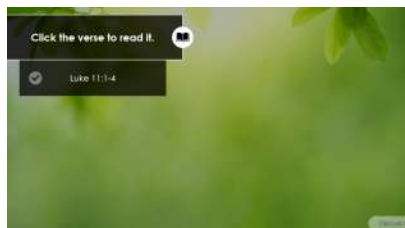


**In the Word:** Let's see how Scripture passages relate to what we've discussed so far!




- Read: Romans 8:26-27
- Discuss: Here is the problem with prayer: "We do not know how to pray." We don't know how to ask God for the things we need. In other words, we don't really trust that God is the one who provides us with *everything* we need. Because of our sin, we often turn prayer into something it is not. Instead of asking God for the things we need, we begin to imagine that praying itself makes us righteous. Then, we find ourselves worrying about our own righteousness and whether or not we're praying "right". **But there is also a great promise in verse 27. Who is praying for you?**


 **TEACHER NOTE:** The word “intercedes” which is used in many Bible translations means to pray for someone. It is God the Holy Spirit who intercedes for us.



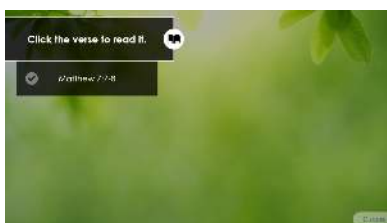
- Read: Luke 11:1-4
- Discuss: Does this seem familiar?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** This is the Lord’s Prayer. It is also recorded in Matthew 6:9-13. Students may notice that, depending on the translation, the words are slightly different. Also, they may notice that the Doxology (For Thine is the kingdom...) is not included, and it may or may not be included in Matthew 6 either (again, depending on the translation they’re using). We will discuss some of those matters when we get to those petitions, but for now, direct students to this question:


- Who gives us the words we pray in the Lord’s Prayer?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** Jesus Christ does. When we pray the Lord’s Prayer, we are never praying alone: Jesus prays with us. What a comfort!

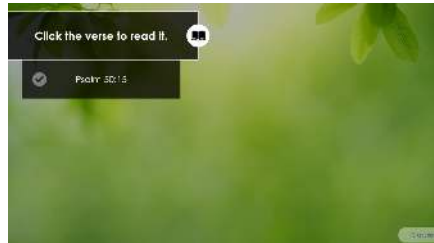
Jesus provides us the words to the Lord’s Prayer so that we learn to pray in spite of ourselves. God doesn’t hear our prayers based on how worthy (or unworthy) the person praying is. He hears our prayers on account of His Word.



- Read: Matthew 7:7-8
- Discuss: What does God want you to do whenever you need something?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** He wants you to ask Him. Every time. This does not mean that God gives you everything that you want. When we get to the Third Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, we learn to pray **against ourselves**. That means we pray, “Don’t give me what I want, but what You want, Lord!” God does not give us everything we want– but He always gives us what He has promised to us.

God loves to hear your prayers. He wants you to come to Him for everything you need because He knows He is the only one who can and will actually provide it.



- Read: Psalm 50:15
- Discuss: Calling upon God in the day of trouble is \_\_\_\_\_. 🖋️ (Prayer)

🖋️ **TEACHER NOTE:** Your husband or wife. The one with whom you share your bed and your home.

- What does God promise to do when you pray to Him? 🖋️ **Deliver (rescue) you.**
- When God makes a promise, it is a sure thing! God doesn't lie. Everyone who trusts Him will not be put to shame (Romans 10:11). In the Small Catechism, we learn that God wants us to ask Him "boldly and with complete confidence." **How would having an unbreakable promise from God affect the way we pray?**

🖋️ **TEACHER NOTE:** Because we are praying according to God's promises, we can pray without hesitation; that is, with complete trust and assurance that God will do what He has promised, even amid the attacks from the devil, the world, and our flesh. In the Large Catechism, Luther writes that God wants you to pray to Him so that you learn to "spread your apron wide to receive many things." God is a giver, not a demander, and He gives with abundance that we cannot comprehend, even when we don't see or feel it.

- When we pray, who is the one we are speaking to?
- How do you know you're "sending your prayers to the right address"? In Romans 10, Paul declares that "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." That's a great promise! And God *has given you His name* to call on in the day of trouble. When did He first give you His name?

🖋️ **TEACHER NOTE:** God first gave you His name when He baptized you.

- What is God's name that you were given in Holy Baptism?

🖋️ **TEACHER NOTE:** You were baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.




- Read: Romans 8:15
- Discuss: When we pray the Lord's prayer, to whom is our prayer addressed?

🖋️ **TEACHER NOTE:** To God our Father. Father is not just a title, it is God's name.



- Regarding prayer, Martin Luther writes, “We are far too weak against the devil and all His might and forces arrayed against us, trying to trample us underfoot.” But, “whenever a good Christian prays, ‘Dear Father, your will be done,’ God replies from above, ‘Yes, dear child, it shall be done, in spite of the devil and all the world.’” **When God’s promise is under attack, can we save ourselves? Why or why not?**

 **TEACHER NOTE:** No. We cannot save ourselves. As Luther says, we are far too weak. We need to be saved.

So what do we do?  **TEACHER NOTE:** We pray to our Father, who has promised to rescue us.

## 6. MEMORY WORK



The words in Luther’s Small Catechism are worth memorizing. In this lesson, there could be tools, including songs, that will equip students to find some success.

- *Introduction:* Our Father who art in heaven.
- *What does this mean?* Here God encourages us to believe that he is truly our Father and we are his children. We therefore are to pray to him with complete confidence just as children speak to their loving father.

## 7. LEARNING CHECK



- Asking God for the things we need is...
  - confessing.
  - proclamation.
  - **prayer.**
  - impudence.



- *Petition* means...
  - a new law or regulation.
  - **a request for something.**
  - minding your own business.
  - none of these.



- Which of these causes us to pray boldly and with complete confidence?
  - Praying the right way
  - **God’s promise**
  - Becoming righteous through prayer
  - all of these

- We pray because...
  - God commands us to pray.
  - we have troubles and needs, and so do our neighbors.
  - God promises to hear our prayers.
  - **all of these**



- What Commandment requires us to “call on, pray to, praise and give thanks to God”?
  - **The Second Commandment**
  - The Third Commandment
  - The Eighth Commandment
  - The Ninth Commandment



- Which is a promise that God gives regarding prayer?
  - Ask and you shall receive.
  - Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
  - He will deliver you in the day of trouble.
  - **all of these**



- When did you first receive God’s name so that you can call on Him?
  - the first time you receive the Lord’s Supper
  - **when you were Baptized**
  - before you were born
  - none of these



- True or **False**: God promises to give you everything you want if you just ask.



- God wants you to ask Him just as a loving \_\_\_\_\_ asks their loving \_\_\_\_\_.
  - **child; father**
  - friend; friend
  - pet owner; pet
  - none of these

## 8. WRAP UP

### Closing Prayer & Benediction



- God our heavenly Father, by Your Word, cause us to direct all our prayers to you, asking boldly and with complete confidence for the things we and our neighbors need, just as loving children ask their loving father; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

It is good practice to give a blessing to each individual student before they leave you! (You might also select one of them to give this spoken benediction to you.) Our Lord uses baptized believers to give this, God's message, to one another. Here is a Benediction that you could use this week:

God our Father, who has made you, (Name), His own dear child, give you everything you need for life here and for eternal life. Amen.



**Luther House**  
**of Study**