

The Lord's Prayer

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 4 March 27, 2022
"Forgive... as We Forgive"



OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, when we were dead in sin, you sent your Son to reconcile us to yourself. May your Spirit of love fill our listening and speaking today, that we may receive your gift of forgiveness more fully and extend it more freely, for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

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Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV) [cont.]

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’ ³³ ‘Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

INTRODUCTION

In this series, we are examining the Lord’s Prayer to get a better understanding of its meaning so that when we pray it, we will connect with God like never before. So what does the phrase “forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,” actually mean?

The terms debts, trespasses, and sins all intend to speak to our violation of others and of God. This is why Jesus is giving us something to deal with the sin problem so we are not shackled with guilt. But Jesus also wants us to realize that we have offended God and other people. Since God has extended extraordinary mercy to us, he expects us to be merciful to others.

QUESTIONS

1. Did you pray the Lord’s Prayer this past week? Did you focus on what you learned last week regarding our daily bread?
2. Do you find it hard to acknowledge to yourself, others or God that certain things you did were wrong?
3. Do you believe that we need to pray for forgiveness each day? Why or why not?
4. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = terrible, 10 = excellent), how well are you at forgiving others?
5. Read the scripture passage on p. 1 and answer the following questions:
 - a. What do you think about the king’s final action toward the first servant?
 - b. How does Jesus apply this parable to our relationship with God?
 - c. Which character in Jesus’ story do you imagine yourself as?
6. When was a time someone showed you extraordinary mercy? When have you showed mercy to someone else?

FINAL APPLICATION

Think about someone who has wronged you in the past. Then pray “Lord help me to forgive them and help me to let go of this,”

Then pray “Lord, please forgive me for [you can just name those places where you are indebted to God, you’ve trespassed, you have fallen short of God’s will].”