

# The Lord's Prayer

## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 5 April 3, 2022  
"Lead Us... Deliver Us"



### OPENING PRAYER

O Holy God, you have set before us the way to life, full life, but too often we allow ourselves to be led, and we even lead ourselves, into ways of physical and spiritual harm. By your Spirit, help us to greater understanding of the scripture and Your will for us. Give us strength to more faithfully obey and follow You, in the name of the One who was tempted as we are, but was without sin, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

#### Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*

*<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

*<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"*

*<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

*<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."*

*<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"*

*<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.*

#### Ephesians 6:11-17 (NIV)

*<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the*

## **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES [continued]**

*shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

We have been exploring the Lord's Prayer and come now to the line that asks God to lead us "not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," which has led to some confusion. Is God in the habit of leading us into testing and temptation? We know that Jesus understood the lure of the evil one, who sought to derail his ministry. And Jesus knew that we, as his followers, would struggle personally with temptation and evil. Jesus also knew, as a society, we would be enticed by evil. We need this prayer, for ourselves and for our church, as we seek to follow the guidance of the Spirit and avoid the whispers of the Deceiver.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Do you understand Matthew 4:1 to say the Spirit led Jesus into temptation? Why or why not?
2. How tempted do you think Jesus was by each of the devil's efforts, and why?
3. How do you think that Jesus' experience of temptation led to the prayer that he taught his disciples?
4. In his book, Adam Hamilton notes that just because someone quotes scripture (after all, the devil does for Jesus) does not mean they are leading you on the right path. Have you found this to be true?
5. Read Ephesians 6:11-17, do you find the idea of the devil helpful or unhelpful as an explanation for temptation?
6. Which piece of spiritual equipment do you rely on the most? Why?
7. If you consider Ephesians 6:12, does this verse affect how you view others in our polarized society today? Does it affect your view of someone you struggle to forgive?

## **FINAL APPLICATION**

As you think about avoiding temptation or enduring trials when you pray the Lord's Prayer this week, recall the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd (John 10:2-3). Remember that Jesus knows your name, calls you to follow, and is not willing to leave anyone behind. Find an image of Jesus as a shepherd to keep nearby. As you move into next week, train yourself to hear and recognize Jesus' voice in order to follow Him to eternal safety, and pray that you would be strengthened by an understanding of who you are and whose you are.

Adapted from Hamilton, Adam. *The Lord's Prayer Leader Guide*.