

Questions for Your Journal

Use these following questions to evaluate what you learned from Sunday's sermon.

Summary:

- The main thing the speaker wants me to do, be, and/or feel as a result of this message.

Application to My Life:

- What did God say to me through this message?
 - How does my life measure up to this word?
 - What action(s) will I take to bring my life in line with this word?
 - What truth do I need to study further?
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A Paradigm for Christian Living by N.T. Wright¹

“...The Christian is also called to make the Lord's Prayer paradigmatic in his or her own personal life. The context in Matthew 6 includes Jesus' command to go into one's own room, shut the door, and pray to the Father who sees in secret (6:6). The life of the individual Christian is lived out between baptism and bodily death and resurrection on the same principle as the life of the corporate church. It is true, of course, that the story of Israel's wilderness wanderings has been more regularly applied to the Christian life than to church history, and the symbolism is well enough known: the crossing of the Jordan symbolizing death, and so forth — or, as in some “second blessing” traditions, altered so that the crossing of the Jordan signals an entry into a “higher life” of full sanctification. Nonetheless, the Exodus story is still a fruitful source of imagery for reconstructing a genuinely Christian spirituality.

The Lord's Prayer, as used by a Christian who is conscious of his or her pilgrimage to the eventual promised land, celebrates the great beginning of that pilgrimage when, in baptism, that individual is united with Christ in his death and resurrection. Calling God “Father” says and celebrates all of that. The early petitions of the prayer, with their focus on God's name, God's kingdom, and God's will, can all be used in this context as the framework for focusing in one's private prayer on God himself, and for claiming already in the present the blessings of the future that are already secured in Christ. And within private prayer, as with public prayer, all of the other elements take their place: intercession, the prayer for forgiveness, and the clear-eyed plea against [temptation] and against the [evil one]. These all find their appropriate, though still subordinate, home. The individual Christian is called to be a man, woman, or child of prayer as a New Exodus person.

But that cannot be the whole story. For, as I said in the first section of this article, at its heart the Lord's Prayer is an invitation to each Christian to share in the praying life of Jesus himself. The early Christians were very conscious of Jesus' exalted presence before God's throne, where his constant task is to intercede on behalf of his people (cf. Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24). The Lord's Prayer, therefore, by uniting Jesus' people with their Lord in the prayer that formed the inner

core of his own life, brings about the situation where those who pray it are even now, whether they realize it or not, “seated in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:6; cf. Col. 3:1,3).

There are different ways of appropriately embodying this reality. Precisely because we are to pray God’s kingdom into existence “on earth as it is in heaven,” it is always worthwhile exploring and reflecting on those ways — including matters of place, posture, timing, musical accompaniment, and so on. These are not mere incidentals. They will, of course, vary quite widely with culture, personality, and opportunity. Such variations, however, do not suggest that there are not some more and some less appropriate outward forms and fashions. Rather, the reverse is true. Each individual Christian and every church community is responsible, under God, for not just maintaining a human tradition but for discovering the forms that the Lord’s Prayer itself prompts and suggests within a particular culture and for the particular people who are going to be using it.”¹

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Matthew 6:9–13 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

Jesus taught His disciples to pray by giving them a model prayer. **Read Matthew 6:9–13. Reflect carefully on each petition of the Lord’s Model Prayer and think back to Sunday’s sermon. What does one ask of God with each request?**

Though the “introduction” to the disciple’s prayer is familiar, addressing God as “Our Father in Heaven” is a tremendous privilege. **Read John 1:11–13 and Romans 8:14–17. On what basis are believers called the children of God? How do we know if God is truly our Father?**

Jesus' instruction for prayer includes the petition to "forgive our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matt. 6:12, NASB). **Why should believers regularly repent of their sins? How does the sin of unforgiveness affect a believer's relationship with God (see Matthew 18:21–35)?**

The final petition of Jesus' model prayer focuses on the reality of personal temptation. How does Jesus' prayer teach us to seek God's help in facing temptation to sin? **Read 1 Corinthians 10:12–13. Based on the Model Prayer and 1 Corinthians 10, what help is available to you when you are tempted to sin? How can you make use of this help in your pursuit of righteousness this week?**

Examine

Based on 2 Timothy 3:16 ("All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"), this series of questions is intended to help you figure out what you should do or believe in response to this text. (This passage may not have a clear answer for each question. Just use them to prompt your thinking.)

1. What does this passage tell me to believe?

(How does it teach me?)

2. What does this passage tell me not to believe?

(How does it reprove me?)

3. How does this passage tell me not to live?

(How does it correct me?)

4. How does this passage tell me to live?

(How does it train me in righteousness?)

Embrace

After spending significant time with this passage, you've probably learned a lot and heard God speak to you through His Word. Look back at your responses to the previous questions and ask God to show you how you can respond to this text this week.

Write down some ideas for how you can respond to the truth of God's Word.

About The Map

The Map exists to help you consistently reflect on Scripture as you pursue maturity in Christ. When you devote yourself to reading God's Word, and meditate on what you read, you're allowing Him to shape your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

NOTES:

1. N.T. Wright, "The Lord's Prayer as a Paradigm of Christian Prayer", in *Into God's Presence: Prayer in the New Testament*, ed. R.L. Longenecker (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001), 132-54.



Disciple-Making Guide

Kids Kindergarten through 6th grade receive Adventure Tokens for discipleship activities completed during the week. They can spend them at the Adventure Store on the last Sunday of the month.

Big Picture Questions for Unit 35: “The God Who Gives Hope”

Preschool: Q: How do we live while waiting for Jesus to return?
A: *We follow Jesus and tell everyone about Him.*

Kids (1-6): Q: How do we live while waiting for Jesus to return?
A: *We remember God’s goodness, grow in godliness, and spread the gospel.*

This Week’s Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *The Triumphal Entry**

Day 1: *Luke 1*

Day 2: *Luke 2*

Day 3: *Matthew 1-2*

Day 4: *Mark 1*

Day 5: *John 1*

*Preschool readings are taken from *The Big Picture Interactive Bible Stories for Toddlers, New Testament* (B&H Publishing Group), available at Amazon.com & LifeWay Christian Store.

Key Passage for Unit 35: “The God Who Gives Hope”

Preschoolers: “All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

Kids (1-6 grade): “All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

Northway’s Family Ministry uses *The Gospel Project* to help preschoolers, kids, and students grow in their knowledge of Scripture and of Jesus Christ, about whom it was all written (Luke 24:44-49).



Adventure Token Coupon

Fill this out and bring it to Bible Study for your tokens!

I worked on learning my big picture question and key passage _____.

I read my Bible at home _____.

Child’s Name _____.

Parent’s Signature _____.

30 BIBLICAL BASICS

CORE BELIEFS

God | 2 Corinthians 13:13

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Personal God | Psalm 121:1-2

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Salvation by Grace | Ephesians 2:8-9

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible | 2 Timothy 3:16-17

I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God that guides my belief and action.

Identity in Christ | John 1:12

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church | Ephesians 4:15

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth.

Humanity | John 3:16

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion | Psalm 82:3-4

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Stewardship | Psalm 24:1-2

I believe that everything I am and everything I own belong to God.

Eternity | John 14:1-2

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus will return to judge all people and to establish His eternal kingdom.

CORE PRACTICES

Worship | Psalm 95:1-2

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer | Psalm 66:18-20

I pray to God to know him, to find direction for my life, and to lay my requests before him.

Bible Study | Hebrews 4:12

I study the Bible to know God and his truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness | Matthew 6:33

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Total Surrender | Romans 12:1

I dedicate my life to God's purposes.

Biblical Community | Acts 2:44-47

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, in the life of others, and in the world.

Spiritual Gifts | Romans 12:4-6

I know my spiritual gifts and use them to fulfill God's purposes.

Offering My Time | Colossians 3:17

I offer my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving My Resources | 2 Corinthians 8:7

I give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.

Sharing My Faith | Ephesians 6:19-20

I share my faith with others to fulfill God's purposes.

CORE VIRTUES

Love | 1 John 4:10-12

I am committed to loving God and loving others.

Joy | John 15:11

Despite my circumstances, I feel inner contentment and understand my purpose in life.

Peace | Philippians 4:6-7

I am free from anxiety because I have found peace with God, peace with others, and peace with myself.

Self-Control | Titus 2:11-13

I have the power through Christ to control myself.

Hope | Hebrews 6:19-20

I can cope with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

Patience | Proverbs 14:29

I am slow to anger and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness | 1 Thessalonians 5:15

I choose to be kind and good in my relationships with others.

Faithfulness | Proverbs 3:3-4

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my loyalty to those relationships.

Gentleness | Philippians 4:5

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Humility | Philippians 2:3-4

I choose to esteem others above myself.

The 30 Biblical Basics are the skeleton of a person being formed into the image of Jesus by His Spirit (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18), a helpful framework for the Christian's thoughts, actions, and character. As we commit ourselves to growing in Christ through the process of spiritual formation, we pray these statements become increasingly true of us. When they are, we'll be able to carry out the biblical mandate to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27), and to truly **love, live, and lead like Jesus**.