

Weekly Study Guide

The week of October 13, 2013

Daily Readings

Monday	Matthew 6:9-13	Tuesday	Luke 11:2-4	Wednesday	Ephesians 6:18-20
Thursday	Philippians 1:3-6	Friday	John 17:1-19	Saturday	John 17:20-26

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Title: *Where Your Treasure Is*

Text: Matthew 6:19-34

Message overview: Treasures come with security and risk. They represent value, but losing them is painful. Jesus leads us to find and store our treasures in Him, where they will be safe for now and forever. Join us next week to learn what it means to "store up treasure in heaven."



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Group Discussion

Connect	What kinds of things make it hard to pray?
Learn	<p>Read Matthew 6:9-13. This passage is often called the Lord's prayer, though some people also call it "the disciple's prayer," because it's how Jesus taught us to pray.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus teaches us to start praying by recognizing God as "our Father" and by being concerned for the honor and reputation of God's name. What do you think is usually first in people's minds when they begin to pray? How is this different?• The first thing we ask for in this prayer is for God's Kingdom to come, which means that his will is going to be done on earth - as it already is "in heaven." Where do you see God's will NOT being done on earth? Can you think of some things we're praying for God to change when we pray this? <p>After this general prayer for God's Kingdom to come and God's will to be done, Jesus spells this out in more detail with three more specific requests. In the Kingdom of God we are praying for bread, forgiveness, and deliverance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We pray for "daily bread." You might think of this as praying for practical needs, and Jesus teaches us that God cares about this. What kind of practical needs do you need to pray for? Other Christians are also praying this prayer. Do you think God might want to work through you to answer that prayer?• We pray for forgiveness. The Bible uses different words for "sin" in different places: sin, trespass, and debt are three of the most common. What do those words say to you? Why do you think it's important to pray for forgiveness?• We pray for "deliverance." Another word for this might be "freedom" or "liberation." We pray for God to set us free from spiritual evil. What does it say about our world that we need to pray for this? Can you think of anything in your life or world that this applies to?
Apply	The Lord's Prayer can be prayed in its own words, and it can also be a kind of outline or model for shaping our own prayers. How can you use Jesus' prayer to help you in your own prayer life?
Pray	As you pray together today, pray for the kinds of things Jesus taught us. Pray for God's Kingdom and will to come to pass. And pray for practical needs, the practice of forgiveness, and spiritual freedom. You can use the very words of Matthew 6:9-13, or you can just follow this model.