

**GOSPEL COMMUNITY GUIDE**  
**Life WITH God : The Lord's Prayer**  
**Matthew 6:12, 14-15 | November 16, 2025**



**QUICK UPDATES**

Share any upcoming church events and handle housekeeping for the Gospel Community.

**CONNECT**

When you hear the word “forgiveness,” what kind of story, person, or feeling comes to mind first - and why?

**REVIEW**

Have someone read the passage out loud from the ESV translation or something similar. Reflect on any insights, questions, or parts that stood out from the text or the sermon. Then read the summary below.

*In this part of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to come before God honest about our sin and confident in our Father's mercy. We confess that our sin is a real debt before a holy God, a debt we could never repay. But the good news is that Christ has paid that debt in full, canceling our record and setting us free. And now, through the Spirit, forgiven people become forgiving people, learning to release others in the same mercy we have received.*

**LEARN & LIVE**

*These questions help us grasp the truth of the passage and consider how to live it out.*

- When you hear Jesus teach us to pray, “forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,” what is most surprising, confusing, or challenging about that line?
- How does seeing sin as a debt against a holy God (instead of just “mistakes”) change the way you read this part of the Lord's Prayer?
- In the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18), what stands out to you about the posture of each man before God, and how does that help you understand what it means to come to God for forgiveness?
- The sermon said, “The problem isn't the size of the sin, it's the size and worth of the One we're offending.” How does that help explain why even “small” sins still matter?
- What does Colossians 2:13-14 teach us about what God has already done with our “record of debt”? How might that truth shape how you think about your past?
- The sermon said, “The paradox of every Christian is that we are both sinners and, by faith, children of God.” Which side of that paradox do you tend to forget more, your sinfulness or your sonship, and how does that affect your view of forgiveness?
- When you think about your everyday life, where do you see a “small view of God” or a “small view of sin” creeping in? How does that affect your sense of need for forgiveness?
- In Matthew 18, the servant is forgiven an unpayable debt but refuses to forgive a small one. In what ways do you see yourself in that story (as the forgiven servant)?
- How does thinking of God as a Father who never gets tired of your confession contrast with how you usually imagine Him responding when you come to Him with your sin?
- The sermon called forgiveness a “family trait”, Father, Son, and Spirit all forgive. How does that image deepen your understanding of what it means to belong to God's family?

## GO DEEPER

*These questions invite us to slow down and wrestle with what's going on beneath the surface. Use these to go a little deeper or in your Huddle Groups.*

- Jesus' words in Matthew 6:14–15 were described as a kind of spiritual pulse check. If you took that seriously, what might your current willingness, or refusal, to forgive be revealing about your heart?
- Is there someone whose "debt" you are still quietly keeping a record of? What are the stories you tell yourself that justify holding on to that record?
- The sermon said forgiveness requires us to "face the wound" rather than minimize or spiritualize it away. Where in your life have you avoided facing a wound honestly before God? What might change if you did?
- When you replay a specific hurt, what do you most want in that moment? To be proved right, to see them pay, to be comforted, to be understood? How might the cross of Christ speak to that deep desire?
- Where do you see pride or self-righteousness in how you compare your sin to the sins of others, like the Pharisee in Luke 18?
- The sermon quoted, "The currency of forgiveness is emotional pain." Where have you felt the cost of forgiving someone, and how has absorbing that cost (instead of making them pay) changed you or maybe exposed what's hard for you?
- The sermon said we sometimes need to ask God not only for the strength to forgive but even for the desire to forgive. Where do you sense that your desire is missing right now? What keeps you from asking the Spirit to change that desire?
- Are there relationships in your life where you've extended forgiveness, but reconciliation is not possible or wise right now? How do you wrestle with that tension between a forgiving heart and healthy boundaries?
- If forgiveness really is a "family trait" of God's children, what kind of gospel story might God be wanting to tell through your life in the way you respond to hurt and offense. This of one specific situation that comes to mind.
- **How is the Spirit inviting you personally to respond and what will you do differently this week?**

## PRAY

- Pray about one way God spoke to you tonight through His Word.
- Pray by name for someone in your life who doesn't yet know Jesus.
- Pray for the needs of those in the group.
- Pray for this ministry area of Redeemer: [Pray for the men of Redeemer and the Men's Retreat this week.](#)

## 5 GROUP DISCUSSION RULES

We want to be full of grace as we meet, deepening our relationship with one another and with Christ. These five values help us know our **P.L.A.C.E.** in our GC's and Huddles.

1. **Pray** - Prayer is a space for confession, struggle, and praise. Keep requests focused on yourself and your immediate family, so we can pray specifically and personally.
2. **Listen** - Be present and attentive. Share with humility, be mindful of time, and remember: silence is okay.
3. **Apply** - Answer honestly. Consider how God's Word speaks into your life, and what it might look like to respond.
4. **Confess** - Confession and repentance are signs of maturity. We meet one another with grace, not shame.
5. **Encourage** - Practical advice is helpful, but truth is better. Speak the gospel into each other's hearts and stories.

**COMMENTARY EXCERPT:**

11:1–13 How to pray (see Mt. 6:9–13; 7:7–11). Christian prayer goes back to the example and command of Jesus himself. The Lord's Prayer appears here in a different, shorter form from the more familiar one found in Matthew. It is generally thought that the early church adapted Jesus' words in different ways to meet its needs. Luke's form contains an address and two sets of petitions....

First, there is a prayer for the supply of daily bread. This may be a petition not just for ordinary food but also for the bread of life, the gift of God without which we cannot live. Daily (Gk. *epiousios*) is a word of uncertain meaning: 'for tomorrow' or 'necessary' are possible renderings. The former brings out the way in which the prayer asks for a foretaste of the blessings of the kingdom now.

Secondly, there is a prayer for daily forgiveness, which is granted only to those who forgive others.

Finally, the petitioner asks to be preserved from tribulation and testing which would weaken faith and lead to exclusion from God's kingdom.

*Marshall, I. H. (1994). Luke. In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), New Bible commentary: 21st century edition (4th ed., p. 999). Inter-Varsity Press.*