

## The Lord's Prayer

BASIC EDITION

*Deluxe* EDITION

And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread,  
<sup>4</sup> and forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone  
who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation."  
Luke 11:2-4

Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread,  
<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our  
debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil (*or* the evil  
one). Matthew 6:9-13

### Introduction

For centuries the Church has used the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the Ten Commandments to instruct people in the Christian Faith and prepare them for baptism. Sometimes they also used the Beatitudes. The Lord's Prayer was used to teach how to pray and worship; the Creed, what to believe; and the Ten Commandments/Beatitudes, how to live. Through the study of these documents believers were formed in the Christian faith. There is no better way to go "back to the basics" than to meditate on these classic Christian texts. We don't have to finish them by the end of camp. We can take our time and get as far as we get! Today we begin with the Lord's Prayer.

We have received the Lord's Prayer in two forms. In Luke 11:1-11 the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. In response, He gives them the Lord's Prayer followed by the parable of the Friend at Midnight. In Matthew 6:5-18 Jesus gives us the Lord's Prayer in a longer form as part of His teaching on Prayer in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1—

7:23). This is the “family prayer” for the people of God. It is the prayer for those who embrace God's Kingdom. It is important that we study the Lord's Prayer within these contexts.

I have called Luke's account the “Basic Edition” of the Lord's Prayer and Matthew's longer account the “*Deluxe* Edition.” Luke's version contains all the essentials. Matthew's version, however, helps us to better understand those essentials.

Let us begin by praying together the Lord's Prayer, the Church's Family Prayer, in its *Deluxe* Edition, adding, at the end, “for yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever and ever. Amen”

### Questions for Discussion:

1. In Matthew's deluxe edition there are six petitions. What personal pronouns are used in these petitions? What does this usage tell us about the petitions?
2. What does it mean to call God Father? Note particularly Matthew 6:5-8 and Luke 11: 5-11. How did He become “our Father” (John 1:11-13; Romans 8:12-17)? How does His Fatherhood influence our relationship to Him?
3. What does it mean for God's name to be “hallowed” or “made holy”? Have a look at Ezekiel 36:22-24 and Isaiah 29:22-24.
4. What is the “Kingdom of God”?
  - a. God's Kingdom in the OT: See Judges 8:22-27; 1 Samuel 8:1-22; 2 Samuel 7:1-17; Isaiah 52:7; Daniel 7:1-14
  - b. God's Kingdom in Jesus' Ministry: Read Matthew 1-5 noting all references to “King” or “Kingdom” (“Kingdom of God” = “Kingdom of Heaven”).
  - c. God's Kingdom in the Present: Note what Mark 14:53-65; Matthew 28:16-20; and 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 have to say.
  - d. God's Consummated Kingdom: Revelation 11:15-17; 19:1-9
5. What would the earth look like if God's will was done here as it is in heaven? You might look at Revelation 21:1—22:5.
6. What is included in “daily bread”? For whose “daily bread” should we pray? Which version (Basic or *Deluxe*) of this petition is the more urgent? Have you ever needed to pray this prayer with urgency? How do we grow in the Lord by praying for “daily bread”? Reflect on Matthew 6:25-34
7. What is the difference between the “sins” of Luke's edition and the “debts” of Matthew's? According to Matthew 6:14-15 and 18:21-35, why is it important for us to forgive others?
8. What does it mean, “Lead us not into temptation”?
9. What does the added petition in Matthew, “deliver us from evil” or “deliver us from the evil one” add to the prayer?
10. How can praying the Lord's Prayer make a difference in our lives?