



5 Daily Devotionals (From June 28th Sermon)

Day 1: More Than Words

Key Verse: *"Your Father knows what you need before you ask him."* — Matthew 6:8

Prayer isn't about impressing God with eloquent words. It isn't about saying the right phrases or checking a spiritual box. Jesus reminds us that our heavenly Father already knows our needs before we even speak them.

So why pray?

Because prayer is about relationship. God invites us to come to Him as beloved children who are welcomed into His presence. Just as a loving parent delights in hearing about a child's day, our Father delights in hearing our joys, fears, struggles, and hopes. He doesn't need information; He desires communion.

It's easy to let familiar prayers become routine. We can recite them while our minds wander elsewhere. But Jesus calls us to something deeper—a heart fully engaged with the God who already loves us in Christ.

Today, don't worry about praying perfectly. Simply talk to your Father honestly. He isn't waiting for polished words; He's inviting you into His presence.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for welcoming me as Your child through Jesus. Draw my heart closer to You and help my prayers become conversations of trust rather than empty routines. Amen.

Day 2: Trusting Our Father's Heart

Key Verse: *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."* — Matthew 6:9

The Lord's Prayer begins with a remarkable invitation: "Our Father."

Jesus teaches us to approach the Creator of heaven and earth not as a distant ruler, but as our loving Father. He is all-powerful, yet deeply personal. He knows your name, your fears, your disappointments, and your hopes.

When we pray, "Hallowed be Your name," we're asking that God's name—and everything He has revealed about Himself—would be honored in our lives. We honor Him not only with our words but by trusting His promises and following His ways.

Like a wise parent who sees dangers a child cannot yet recognize, God often leads us away from paths that would ultimately bring pain. His commands aren't meant to restrict our joy but to protect it.

His wisdom is always greater than ours. His love never fails. Even when we don't understand His timing, we can trust His heart.

Prayer:

Father, teach me to trust You even when I don't understand Your plans. Help me honor Your name by believing Your promises and walking in Your ways. Amen.

Day 3: Daily Bread for Today

Key Verse: *"Give us today our daily bread."* — Matthew 6:11

Most of our anxiety lives in tomorrow.

We worry about problems that haven't happened, conversations we haven't had, or circumstances we can't control. But Jesus teaches us to pray for today's bread.

God gave Israel manna one day at a time. Each morning they depended on Him again. In the same way, God invites us to trust Him for today's needs rather than carrying tomorrow's burdens.

This doesn't mean we never plan ahead. It means our confidence rests in God's daily faithfulness instead of our ability to control the future.

Today's strength. Today's grace. Today's provision.

Whatever you're facing today—a difficult relationship, financial pressure, uncertainty, or fear—bring it to your Father. He already knows what you need, and He promises to care for His children.

Living one day at a time doesn't shrink God's faithfulness; it allows us to see it more clearly.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for providing what I need today. Replace my anxiety with trust and remind me that Your mercies are new every morning. Amen.

Day 4: The Freedom of Forgiveness

Key Verse: *"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."* — Matthew 6:12

Because Jesus bore our sin on the cross, our debt has been paid in full. What wonderful news! We don't earn God's forgiveness—it has already been won for us through Christ.

That changes how we live.

Each day we confess our sins, not because we're uncertain of God's love, but because He continually invites us to receive His forgiveness and live in the peace He freely gives.

Jesus also calls us to forgive others.

Forgiveness doesn't pretend that evil never happened. It doesn't excuse sin or erase painful memories. Instead, forgiveness entrusts justice to God and refuses to let bitterness rule our hearts.

Holding onto resentment keeps old wounds alive. Forgiveness begins to loosen resentment's grip and opens the door for God's healing work within us.

If forgiving someone feels impossible today, begin by asking God to soften your heart. He delights in giving strength for what He commands.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for forgiving me completely through Jesus. Give me strength to release bitterness and entrust justice to You, just as You have shown mercy to me. Amen.

Day 5: Held by Grace

Key Verse: *"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* — Matthew 6:13

The Christian life is not lived without spiritual battles.

Temptation, discouragement, fear, and doubt are real. Yet Jesus teaches us to pray because our Father is greater than every attack of the evil one.

God never tempts us to sin, but He promises that every trial we face is under His sovereign care. Nothing enters our lives without first passing through His loving hands. Even when we stumble, He calls us back through repentance and renews us with His grace.

Our hope isn't found in our own strength. Left to ourselves, we would fall. But Christ has already conquered sin, death, and Satan through His death and resurrection.

That means every day we can pray with confidence: "Father, keep me close to You."

And when we fail, He does not abandon His children. He forgives, restores, strengthens, and continues leading us home.

Prayer:

Father, protect me from temptation and strengthen me through every trial. Keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, who has already won the victory for me. Help me walk in Your grace today and always. Amen.

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Lord's Prayer: A Conversation with Our Father

Main Text: Matthew 6:5–15

Opening Question

Think about someone you could call at any time—day or night—if you truly needed help.

Question: What makes it easy to trust that person? What qualities make someone safe to turn to?

Key Truth

Jesus teaches that prayer is much more than reciting words. It is the privilege of speaking with our heavenly Father, who loves us, knows our needs, and invites us into a relationship of trust.

The Lord's Prayer is not merely a prayer to memorize—it is a pattern that shapes our hearts to trust God, seek His will, depend on His provision, receive His forgiveness, extend forgiveness to others, and rely on His protection.

Supporting Bible Passages

- Matthew 6:5–15
 - Romans 8:15–17
 - James 4:2–3
 - Philippians 4:6–7
 - 1 Peter 5:6–7
 - 1 John 1:8–9
 - Ephesians 4:31–32
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13
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Discussion Questions

1. "Our Father in heaven..."

Jesus begins prayer by reminding us that God is our Father.

- How does thinking of God as a loving Father change the way you pray?
 - What keeps you from talking honestly with Him?
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2. "Hallowed be Your name."

God's name is holy, and we honor Him by trusting His Word and living according to it.

- What does it look like to honor God's name in everyday life?
 - Where is God asking you to trust Him more fully?
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3. "Your kingdom come, Your will be done..."

Jesus teaches us to pray for God's reign in our lives and in the world.

- Where do you most long to see God's kingdom break into your life?
 - How can your daily decisions reflect His will rather than your own?
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4. "Give us this day our daily bread."

God invites us to depend on Him one day at a time.

- What worries about tomorrow tend to steal your peace today?
 - How have you seen God faithfully provide what you truly needed?
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5. "Forgive us our debts..."

Because Christ has paid for our sins through His death and resurrection, we can confidently confess our sins and receive His forgiveness.

- Why is it sometimes difficult to believe that God has completely forgiven us?
- How does regularly confessing sin strengthen your relationship with God?

6. "...as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Those who have received God's mercy are called to extend mercy to others.

- Is there someone you are struggling to forgive?
- What is the difference between forgiving someone and pretending the hurt never happened?
- How does remembering Christ's forgiveness help us begin forgiving others?

7. "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

God does not tempt us, but He faithfully strengthens His children in every trial.

- What temptations most often pull your attention away from Christ?
- What practical habits help you remain rooted in God's Word and prayer?

Application This Week

Choose one petition of the Lord's Prayer each day. Spend several minutes praying specifically about that part of your life instead of simply reciting the words. Ask God to deepen your trust in Him as your gracious Father.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for inviting us to come before You as Your beloved children. Through Jesus, You have opened the way for us to approach You with confidence. Forgive us for the times we rely on ourselves instead of trusting You. Provide what we need each day, strengthen us when we face temptation, and guard us from the evil one. Give us hearts that gladly forgive others because You have first forgiven us through Christ. Help us to honor Your name and live as citizens of Your kingdom until the day You make all things new.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.