

**Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!**



**Sunday, May 5, 2019**

**Three Requests for Our Needs  
A Study of Matthew 6:9-15**



What is the funniest prayer you've heard a child say?

On Easter Sunday, we began a three-week study through the Lord's Prayer. Last Sunday we looked at the first three prayer requests. Use the following questions to review what we learned.

**God's Name:** What does it mean to "hallow" the name of God?

**God's Kingdom:** If we're sincere about praying for the *arrival* of the kingdom *soon*, what should be happening in our lives *now*?

**God's Will:** Make a list of the attitudes the angels "in heaven" probably have as they accomplish God's will.

This week, let's focus on the last three requests. These requests lead us to pray about our needs, our sins, and our temptations.

**Our Needs:**  
**"Give us this day our daily bread"**

We should note both the *place* of this request in the entire prayer and the *fact* that this request is in the prayer at all.

**First: The Place of This Request.** We typically rush into prayer with a list of our personal needs, but we saw last week that Jesus told us to take some time to first think about God's glory. What would change if we did this?

**Second: The Fact of This Request.** Jesus *wants* us to talk about our needs. It needs to come *after* we've re-aligned ourselves to God's priorities, but he still wants us to bring our needs to God! Answer the following questions:

The request for “bread” covers more than a sliced wheat loaf. What sort of needs do you think Jesus had in mind when he told us we should pray for bread?

The request for “daily bread” seems to imply that we should talk to God about *today’s* needs, not what we might need ten years from now. How might that free us from worry? Does such a request imply that it’s wrong to plan for the future?

**Our Sins:  
“And forgive us . . . as we forgive”**

There are two parts to this request. Fill in the blanks as you come to them in the discussion.

**First: When you have broken fellowship with God, he \_\_\_\_\_ forgive.**

Pastor Tom said that if we’re serious about praying the first three requests of the Lord’s Prayer, we’ll be desperate to ask God’s forgiveness by this stage in the prayer. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does this verse explain how God can grant us the forgiveness we ask for?

**Second: When others have broken fellowship with you, you \_\_\_\_\_ forgive.**

Read the verses that immediately follow the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:14-15.

Of all the topics covered in the Lord’s Prayer, why do you think Jesus felt he needed to elaborate on this one subject of our willingness to forgive?

**Our Temptations:**  
**“And lead us not into temptation**  
**but deliver us from evil”**

Why do you think Jesus led us to ask for **power over** sin immediately after we ask for **forgiveness from** sin?

Pastor Tom pointed out that the word we translate “evil” could be translated in three ways. Check the meaning(s) that you feel best describe our struggle with sin. Check all that apply and explain your answer(s).

- “The evil inclination within me” (Read Romans 7:18-19)
- “The evil culture around me” (Read Romans 12:2)
- “The evil one, the devil” (Read Romans 16:20)

What does “lead us not into temptation” mean in light of James 1:13-14?

**Conclusion**

Which of the last three requests involve our past? Our present? Our future?

Notice Jesus tells us to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread **and** forgive us our trespasses...**and** lead us not into temptation.”) Why do you think Jesus tied the last three requests to each other like that?

In these last three requests, Jesus wanted us to know God’s *provision*, God’s *pardon*, and God’s *preservation*. Would this kind of God be attractive to your nonbelieving friends? How will you present this kind of God to the world this week?



*Close with praise reports and prayer requests*