

# Lesson 28

## Jesus Teaches Us to Pray, Part 2

Revised January 2025

### Parent Notes

We could say that the first three petitions of the prayer Jesus teaches his disciples reflect God's interest in his own glory—his Name, his kingdom, his will. The second three reflect God's interest in our good—provision for daily practical needs, the forgiveness of our sins, deliverance from temptation and evil.

These requests open up many doors to conversation:

- What is the difference between need and a want?
- What does it mean to forgive?
- How do the devil, the world, and our own hearts tempt us?

Talk about these things with your children, and then pray with them, modeling prayer with your own requests and prompting them to pray according to the wide expanse of requests God gives us in Jesus' prayer.

You'll notice that this week's memory passage is the same as last week's plus two more verses (Matthew 6:12-13). How interesting that of all the requirements Jesus could have placed on our prayers being heard, he would conclude his prayer with instruction on the necessity of our forgiving others. Explore this with your children. The only reason this holy God hears us is that he has forgiven our sins by accepting the death of his Son as payment. He hears us by grace. If we have received this grace, we will give it as well. We cannot pay for the debt others owe to God, but we can absorb the debt they owe us. This gets to the root of all Christian ethics. We give expecting nothing in return:

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful” (Luke 6:35-36)

So by praying this prayer, we not only have God's gracious ear and generous response, but in praying we become like him—gracious, generous, and forgiving.