

Discussion Questions

- What can you do to increase the “doxology” of your prayers?
- The focus of our catechism question revolves around the Lord’s prayer, but states that all of scripture can direct our prayers. Are there any parts of the bible that inspire you toward doxological prayers?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Matthew’s record of the Lord’s prayer comes in the midst of a larger teaching. Jesus taught his disciples about practicing true religion by contrasting the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. Jesus tells his disciples not to make a show of prayer, but rather we should pray in secret, because our Father who sees what is done in secret will see and reward us. *Matthew 6:7 And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.* Our prayers need not be showy, nor lengthy, but if we express simple faith in God, that is what is pleasing to Him. In Luke’s account of the Lord’s prayer, Jesus goes on to teach about the persistence of prayer. Finally, he compares earthly fathers who give good gifts, with God who gives the Holy Spirit to all who ask. So, with simple words of faith offered to our heavenly Father, we can have assurance that our prayers will be heard. Our Father, who can’t be seen, sees all and hears us when we pray. And God, who is far better than any earthy Father will give abundantly of the Holy Spirit, along with all good things. *9 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.* Matthew 6:9-10.

Discussion Questions

- Does the context of the teachings that surround the Lord’s prayer offer any additional insight into Jesus’ teaching about prayer?
- How does Jesus’ teaching help us who may be worried we won’t say the right thing when we pray?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, October 26th, 2025)

Baptist Catechism Question #106

Q: What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?

A: *The whole word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called the Lord’s prayer.*

Suggested Memory Verse

1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever been in a situation where you knew you ought to pray, but you just didn't know what to say? Often, we feel the urge to pray, or we may be in the habit of praying at a certain time and place. But the only problem is, we feel stuck, without an idea of what we ought to say. Well, you're not alone. Even the disciples faced this conundrum. *Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."* Luke 11:1. While the disciples are far from perfect, here in Luke's gospel we see their insight into their need for direction from their Lord. Like the disciples, we need Jesus to be our guide, and especially when it comes to prayer. Not only does Jesus set forth a model for us in the Lord's prayer how we ought to pray, but we also have the consistent witness in the gospels as to Jesus' habit of prayer. In frequency and in form, we ought to emulate our Lord in prayer. The answer to this week's catechism question states that the whole word of God is of use to direct our prayer. This means that the whole of canon is ours as a source of inspiration and guidance when it comes to prayer. But God, in His providence also provided for us a specific prayer for us to model our prayers by. This prayer is what we call the Lord's prayer.

Discussion Questions

- Read Matthew 6:9-13. Why do you think that we have the Lord's prayer recorded for us in the scriptures?
- Since we know that Jesus warns against vain repetition of prayers, how ought we to view the Lord's prayer?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The Lord's prayer begins this way, *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.* Matthew 6:9. This is the beginning, or preface to the prayer. Jesus is teaching us here that we ought to begin our prayers with the acknowledgement of who God is. Prayer isn't a flippant thing, it is holy, and we should treat it as such. We ought to address God in reverence, approaching God as one who is to be hallowed. We should also note that Jesus addresses God as Father, and he locates God in heaven. This speaks to both the imminence and transcendence of God. On the one hand, Jesus speaks to God as his Father, someone with whom he has a warm and affectionate relationship. On the other hand, Jesus also speaks of God in Heaven, who is above not just spatially, but in rank. God is high above us and yet accessible. He is both approachable and set apart as holy. Jesus' teaching on prayer in the introduction to the Lord's prayer is a reminder for us to pause before bringing our petitions to our Father. Before we make our needs known, we should stop to consider the holiness of God, so that we might pray in a way that is reverential. Next, we should consider that we are addressing God our Father, who delights to hear his children's voices. And we should also consider that God is in heaven, a place that is high above us, and is a place where his will is done perfectly.

Discussion Questions

- What are some ways you can "hallow" or reverence God's name during your prayer?
- What is significant about Jesus' instruction to pray to God, "Our Father"?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The main part of Lord's prayer is the petition. Most of prayers are largely made up of petitions. This part of your prayer represents all the requests that you are making before God. It naturally follows from our confession of God as Father, that we would come to him with our needs. Jesus' prayer encapsulates three main topics, praying for God's will to be done on earth as in heaven, his prayer for daily provision, and prayer regarding sin. God's will most certainly be done! So Jesus is modeling for us an approach to prayer that embraces all that God wills to bring about, including difficulty and suffering. Christ himself exemplified this when he prayed in the garden "Not my will, but yours be done." Next Christ teaches us to pray that God would provide us with our daily bread. God is the source of all things and knows our needs. As His children, when we are need, we should joyfully bring our requests to Him. Whether our pantry is well stocked or it is bare, praying that God would meet our need fixes our hope in God who cares for us, and not towards worldly wealth. Finally, in the last section of petition, Christ prays for protection against the evil one and temptation towards sin. Christ also instructs us that we should pray for forgiveness. Much of our time in prayer should be dedicated especially to these petitions as we strive for holiness and progress in the Christian life.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever thought of the three types of petitions that Christ makes? Can you recall the three different petitions? If not, re-read the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9-13.
- Are any of the three petitions that Christ models missing in your prayers?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Many translations of the bible include an additional part of the Lord's prayer. This is another section of the Lord's prayer that is present some manuscripts. The ESV includes the following text as a footnote for Matthew 6:13: *For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.* This introduces another important part of our prayer, which we can call doxology. Doxology comes from the Greek word *doxa*, which simply means "glory". Part of our prayer should be considering the glory, or the weightiness of God, and the goal of prayer should be doxology, a life lived for God's glory. Prayers have a transformational power. God is working in us to trust in him for all things as we pray. And as we pray prayers that are filled with worship, we are spending time considering the glory and worthiness of God. A great example of this kind of doxological prayer is found in John chapter 17. As Christ is praying for his disciples, he weaves a beautiful prayer that is filled with hope and wonder at the marvelous God that He serves. The prayer is rich and reflects the faithful love of the Son of God.