

## WHEN YOU PRAY

Put God First and Trust Him

March 15, 2026

### Message Summary.

Jesus gave the Lord's Prayer as a model for life. Prayer teaches us to put God first, honor His name, seek His kingdom, and trust His will. From there, we bring our needs, forgiveness, and temptations to Him. Daily prayer strengthens our faith in a big God who can do far more than we imagine.

### Key Scripture Summaries.

**Matthew 6:9-13** | The Lord's Prayer

**Ephesians 3:20** | God is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine. Prayer reminds us we are speaking to a powerful and faithful Father.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** | Temptation is common to everyone. God is faithful. He promises that when temptation comes, He will provide a way of escape so we can endure it.

### Start Talking.

1. What is one habit or routine that helps you start your day well?
2. When you face a stressful situation, what is usually your first response: worry, planning, talking to someone, or prayer?
3. What is one word you would use to describe your prayer life right now?

### Start Thinking.

- Jesus teaches us to begin prayer with God's name, kingdom, and will. Why do you think starting with God changes the way we see our problems?
- From the sermon: "Prayer resets our hearts and reminds us who God is." When have you experienced that reset?
- Why do you think it is easy to believe God can do big things and still pray small?
- Jesus tells us to pray for "daily bread." What is it like to trust God for daily needs rather than worrying about the future?
- The Lord's Prayer connects receiving forgiveness with forgiving others. Why is it sometimes difficult to extend forgiveness?

- Jesus tells His disciples to "watch and pray" so they won't fall into temptation. How does prayer strengthen us in moments of temptation?



### Start Sharing.

1. Share about a time when God clearly provided something you needed.
2. What area of your life do you need to trust God more (i.e., your future, finances, family, decisions, or something else)?
3. Which source of temptation tends to affect you the most: culture (the world), old patterns (the flesh), or sudden opportunities (the enemy)?
4. Have you ever experienced what felt like a "way of escape" from temptation? What happened?
5. What would change if you believed every day that God could do more than you imagine?

### Start Praying.

*Father, Your name is holy. Thank You for providing for us, forgiving us, and protecting us. Help us put You first and trust You with everything. Shape our hearts to seek Your kingdom and Your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### Start Doing.

Choose one or two to practice this week:

- Talk with God at least five minutes each day. Use the pattern from the Lord's Prayer: Praise God → Pray for His kingdom → Surrender to His will → Bring your needs.
- Write down one specific area where you will trust God this week (needs, forgiveness, temptation, future decisions).
- When temptation comes, pause and pray: "God, show me the way out." Then take the step that leads away from sin.
- Pray for one person who does not know Jesus and ask God for an opportunity to share hope with them.