



The Person of Prayer

Robert Morris

Focus When we pray, we are talking to God—our good heavenly Father who loves us and gives us good gifts.

Open Have you ever been accidentally locked out of your house without a key or someone to help? How did you get back in?

Read The Lord's Prayer is a pattern that teaches us how to pray. We will be memorizing Matthew 6:9–13 (KJV) over the next several weeks. The portion to memorize for this is week is Matthew 6:9.

When we pray, we are talking to God, who is *our* Father. He is my Father and your Father: as the Church, we are the family of God (Ephesians 3:14–15). Our Father is in heaven, He is Lord over all, and we can trust Him to answer our prayers (Matthew 18:19). Our Father God is holy and set apart from all evil (Leviticus 22:32).

Jesus tells us about two fathers (John 8:30–44). Because of sin, we are born with Satan as our father. He is the bad father. He is a murderer, liar and the father of lies. He wants to steal, kill and destroy our lives. He lies to us by putting thoughts in our minds that contradict God's Word.

When we are born again, God becomes our Father. He is the good Father (Psalm 119:68). There is no evil in Him: He cannot even be in close proximity to evil. He does not cause the evil in our lives but will help us overcome it (1 Corinthians 10:13). He gives us only good gifts (James 1:13–17).

We all have father wounds. Some of us have had earthly fathers who deeply hurt us or disappointed us. Even people who have great earthly fathers still

have father wounds because no earthly father is perfect. We can talk to God, our good heavenly Father. He will heal us from every father wound.

Talk

1. Practice reciting Matthew 6:9 together as a group. Say it together out loud.
2. Pastor Robert pointed out that the Lord's Prayer is plural: it uses the words "our, us and we." Had you noticed that before? What stood out to you from that part of the sermon?
3. Satan has already been defeated by Jesus' death and resurrection. Yet God takes us through a process of learning how to defeat Satan's lies in our lives. What are some examples of lies that Satan puts into our minds?
4. What are some of the good gifts God has given you? Have someone in the group set a timer and see how many each person can write down in two minutes. Then, share your lists with the group.
5. Pray for each other as a group, that God—our good heavenly Father—will heal us from every father wound. If appropriate, talk to the group leader about resources to help you through the process, such as books to read, classes your church offers, counseling, etc.

Live

Jot down two or three lies from Satan that you struggle with in your thought life. It may be where you tend to be discouraged or be fearful or be prideful or wrestle with impurity. Then, search the Scriptures for God's truth to refute those lies. Review those Scriptures often: read them, pray them, write them down, memorize them. God's truth will replace those lies!

Pray

Thank You, Father, for making us Your children and bringing us into Your family. We praise You, God, that You are only good, and there is no evil in You. We give You our hearts today, Lord. Help us to walk in freedom and truth, set apart from evil, just as You are.