



**July 12 | Sunday**  
**"The Lord and His Prayer"**  
Matthew 6:5-14

**13 | Mon – "Our Father who art in heaven..."** | Read Isaiah 49:14-16

There are some powerful assumptions behind Jesus' opening words in this prayer. First is that God is more than just an uninvolved Supreme Being. Second, "who art in heaven" translates the Greek word *ouranōs*, which meant "air" or "sky" with the idea that God is not far away but everywhere...around us, above us, wherever we go. How, if at all, do you experience God's presence? What difference does that make for you?

**14 | Tues – "Thy kingdom come..."** | Read Matthew 4:17-23

Jesus launched His public ministry by announcing "the good news of the kingdom." The "present tense" of Jesus' message is important because we tend to think of God's kingdom solely in future terms. In your life, where do you want to see God's kingdom come and His will be done today? What is keeping that from happening?

**15 | Wed – "Give us this day our daily bread..."** | Read Matthew 6:25-34

Two key words frame this request. "Bread" can be food or physical provisions but it can also mean intangibles like strength, wisdom, or courage to face difficulty one more time. "Daily" reminds us that we don't need a lifetime supply; we just need it for today. List your particular needs or concerns and entrust them to God's wise, caring provision. Then watch and see what happens.

**16 | Thu – "Forgive us our trespasses as..."** | Read Matthew 18:24-33

Jesus told the story of two debtors. One man owed the equivalent of millions of dollars but the king took pity and forgave his debt. Read how this man then treated a fellow servant who owed him the equivalent of a few dollars. Is it credible to claim God's forgiveness for ourselves if we aren't willing to forgive others? Who do you need to forgive?

**17 | Fri – "Lead us not into temptation but..."** | Read Romans 8:12-14

It was God's Spirit that led Jesus into the wilderness to face strong temptations. Was Jesus thinking about that experience when He included these words in His prayer? It is not wrong to ask for freedom from temptation but if it comes, we can have confidence in God's ability to deliver us. In what areas of your life do you need to make better choices?

**18 | Sat – "For thine is the kingdom..."** | Read Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:7-15

Earliest manuscripts do not include this final sentence of Jesus' prayer. Apparently it was added later by one or more devout scribes, probably based on David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:10-11. But it's a valuable addition. We often use the phrase "nothing is forever" but the Bible tells us that Someone is forever and calls us to live in the light of that reality. What can you do today to show God the honor and respect that He deserves?

**July 19 | Sun – Life's Two Halves** | Read Psalms 71.17-18

