



## TEACH US TO PRAY - August 2022

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." And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
3 Give us each day our daily bread,  
4 and forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.  
And lead us not into temptation."

This week we are covering the second half of this prayer that Jesus gave his disciples. "Give us this day our daily bread" is a cry that God will provide our basic needs. This is not merely a request for food. It is asking that God will provide for our physical, spiritual, and emotional needs.

The translation "forgive us our trespasses" can be a little confusing for us to understand. When we think of trespassing, we imagine someone encroaching on another's property without permission. It's usually not a terrible offense. But Jesus is getting at a deeper issue than simple trespass. Some people grew up learning to pray "Forgive us our debts." That's a little closer, but we tend to think of being in debt as a financial predicament. That's not what Jesus is talking about either. Here, Jesus instructs us to ask God to forgive our sins. In the New Testament we find three general

ideas of what sin is. Sin is when we miss the mark, when we fall when we should have stood firm, or when we willfully violate a command.

Questions:

What needs do you have that only God can provide for?

Do you find it easy or difficult to forgive others? How do you feel about your ability to be forgiven being related to your forgiveness of others?

What does it mean when we ask God to "lead us not into temptation"?

