

Study Series: Chasing God

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 Lesson Title: “Our Father” (pp. 31-41)

Session 03

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The main point of this lesson is: Jesus gave us guidance in relating to the Father through prayer.

Focus on this goal: To help adults turn to God in prayer.

Key Bible Passages: Luke 11:1-4; 1 Corinthians 10:13

**To the Leader:** Be aware that the next unit in this quarter is a fuller look at the Model Prayer from the Gospel of Matthew. Do not attempt to say in this session all you feel needs to be said about this prayer.

Before the Session

1. Bring a roll of toilet paper to class. (Step 3)
2. Hang butcher paper on the wall and have markers available. (Step 4)

3. Enlist someone to give a brief testimony about forgiveness. (Step 4)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask participants to name their favorite teacher and to give a one-sentence statement about why that teacher was their favorite.

**Ask**: In regard to prayer, why is Jesus our best teacher?

Step 2. Day 1 - Teach Us to Pray

**Enlist** a volunteer to read Luke 11:1.

**Ask:** *What is the significance of the disciple asking Jesus to teach them to pray?*

**State** that, while Jesus is our ultimate Teacher on prayer, we also learn from other Christians how to pray, and we can teach others how to pray.

**Organize** into small groups and **direct** them to discuss their answers to the two questions in Day One, activity 1 (p. 31).

After a few minutes, **call on** small groups to report.

**Enlist** a volunteer to read Luke 11:2.

**Tell learners** to underline or highlight the word “when” or its equivalent in verse 2 and briefly discuss its importance.

Step 3. Day 2 - See God Right

In the same small groups organized earlier, **assign** half the groups the word “Father” and the other half the word, “hallowed.”

**Instruct** the groups to discuss the meaning and importance of their word in prayer and to identify other Scriptures where that word is used.

After a few minutes, **call on** small groups to report.

**Enlist** a volunteer to read Luke 11:3.

**State** that while we often pray for God’s provision, our lives don’t always demonstrate our trust in Him to provide.

**Display** a roll of toilet paper.

**State** that 2020 was an incredibly difficult year in so many ways.

**Ask:** *How does toilet paper remind us to trust God’s provision?*

**Guide** learners to share how they have grown to trust God’s provision through difficult circumstances (Day Two, activity 2, p. 35).

Step 4. Day 3 - Forgiving and Forgiven

**Enlist** a volunteer to read Luke 11:4.

**State** that God’s forgiveness of us is the heart of the Gospel.

**Invite** learners to come to the butcher paper on the wall and write their favorite Scriptures on forgiveness (Day Three, activity 1, p. 35).

After a few minutes, **invite** learners to read the verses in unison.

**Ask:** *Why is it important for us to grant forgiveness to others when we are asking God to forgive us?*

**Enlist** a volunteer to read Hebrews 12:15.

**Discuss** how an unforgiving heart can allow a root of bitterness to grow in us, negatively impacting our relationship with God.

**Invite** the person enlisted earlier to give his or her testimony on forgiveness.

Step 5. Day 4 - Temptation, Part 1

**Draw attention** to the final request in Luke 11:4, that says, “Lead us not into temptation.”

**State** that Christians often struggle with temptation.

**Ask** a volunteer to read Romans 7:18-19, where Paul identified his struggle with sin.

**Inquire:** *How does that Scripture assure you that you are not alone in your struggle with temptation?*

**Challenge** learners to identify temptations they may have faced before even coming to the current session.

**Enlist** a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 10 13.

**Ask:** *How does this Scripture encourage you when you face temptation?*

**Explain** that knowing Scripture is one way to resist temptation.

**Enlist** a volunteer to read James 1:13-15.

**Discuss** how these verses confirm the author’s teaching about temptation and sin.

**Direct** learners to share biblical truths about sin and temptation as well as practical steps for resisting temptation (Day Four, activity 2, p. 39).

Step 6. Day 5 - Temptation, Part 2

**Invite** a volunteer to read Matthew 4:1-11.

**Have learners** **identify** how Jesus used Scripture when He faced temptation and to share other biblical lessons from this passage (Day Five, activity 1, p. 41).

Next, **challenge** learners to fill in the blanks in this sentence: Each time we are tempted, we have the opportunity to be (obedient) and to bring (glory) to (God).

**Ask:** *How does resisting temptation strengthen us for the next temptation to come our way?*

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Read** this statement from the author (p. 41): “The Lord’s Prayer … gives us a glimpse into a conversation between a Father and His Son, rooted in a love that transcends words.”

**Encourage** participants to intentionally model their prayers after this prayer so their relationship with God will be rooted in a love that transcends words.

**Close** in prayer, giving opportunity for learners to pray aloud as desired.

After the Session

Specifically pray for each individual in your class this week.

As time allows, send each person a note, text, or email stating that you have prayed for him or her.

