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SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

NORTH: Nov. 26 | CHAPEL: Sept. 17



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at [FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES](https://fargo-hope.org/resources)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

READ: Matthew 6:9-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Why should I pray? It's a common question. What's the purpose of prayer anyway? Think about it this way: in any good relationship, there is good communication. In a healthy marriage, husbands and wives communicate with one another. They take incredible care to listen and to speak so that they understand and are understood. When there is good communication, there is a good relationship. This is true for marriages, families, friends, communities and even our relationship with God.

Prayer is the way we communicate with God. In prayer, we speak and we listen. In prayer, God speaks and God listens. When Jesus teaches about prayer in Matthew's Gospel he does not say "If you pray." Rather, Jesus says, "When you pray..." (Matthew 6:5). Jesus knows that we will pray because we will want our relationship with God to go deeper.

Jesus also gives us a model for prayer, often called the Lord's Prayer. If you pray this prayer verbatim, that is good. If you use this prayer as a model for your own prayers, that is good, too. In whatever way you use Jesus' words for prayer, know that you are praying that your relationship with God will grow, and that you will grow more and more into the likeness that God intends for you.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. If you were taught to pray as a child, what was the first prayer you were taught?
2. How often and when do you pray now?

3. How do you currently use the Lord's Prayer in your life?
4. What would make prayer easier or more natural for you?
5. Is it easy or difficult for you to pray with other people? Why?
6. Think of a person of prayer whom you would like to model. How?
7. Share a profound experience you had in prayer.

PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.