



Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 8, 2019

This Week's Focus: In the Lord's prayer, Jesus taught us to depend on our Heavenly Father for our daily needs, to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to rely on God to deliver us from severe trials and protect us from Satan the author of evil.

This Week's Text: Matthew 6:9-13

"And though this world with devils filled
Should threaten to undo us
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us"

From A Mighty Fortress by Martin Luther

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- Share what the Holy Spirit has impressed on your heart and mind from this week's text.
- How does knowing the larger context (Matthew's gospel) and closer context (Sermon on the Mount) help us better understand the immediate context (Lord's Prayer) of this passage? Briefly recount what Jesus taught about the heart of prayer (verses 5-8), hallowing God's name (verses 9), the kingdom of God (10a), and God's will (verse 10b).
- How is the petition for daily bread relevant to us today? Do you remind yourself daily that the holy, sovereign God who created the universe and is completely self-sufficient cares about supplying our physical needs?
- What is significant about Jesus' use of the plurals "our", "us", and "we" in this prayer? Do you pray with your eyes and hearts open to the daily needs of others?
- What is the nature of our debt to God? Discuss how God's forgiveness of our sins through Christ (justification and imputed righteousness) is the basis of our joyful obligation to forgive others – not the reverse. Although our sins today and in the future don't change our status as children of God, how do they affect the intimacy and joy of relationship with God (1 John 1:9)?
- Who is Jesus warning in 14-15, the one who is working through the process of forgiveness or the one who outright refuses to forgive? Are you currently withholding forgiveness from someone in your life?
- Since God cannot tempt with evil (James 1:13), what does Jesus mean by temptation in verse 13 (James 1:2-3, 1 Peter 1:6-7)? When God does send testing, what is his ultimate purpose? Contrast this with the evil one who exploits our weaknesses. Have you forgotten that Satan is real or that God is greater than our enemy? When you experience hardship, do you lean on God for deliverance and protection or do you seek these elsewhere?

- Discuss how each petition of this prayer points to Jesus.
- How does this text encourage us to demonstrate and declare the gospel to those in our communities and spheres of influence?