

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025

52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 46 - THE MODEL PRAYER Matthew 6:9

“This then is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.’”

According to the Bible, the disciples asked our Lord to teach them to do only one thing. After living with Him for three years, travelling all over Galilee and Judea, and eating hundreds of meals together, they only asked to be taught one thing. They never asked Jesus to teach them to preach. They did not ask Him to teach them to evangelise or to heal the sick. The only thing they ever asked Jesus to teach them is recorded for us in Luke 11:1. They requested, “Lord, teach us to pray.” The disciples were smart enough to know that this was the secret of His life. They had seen Him on many occasions slip away from them into the mountains to pray. They had observed Him on occasion praying all through the night. They saw Him pray before every great undertaking and after every great accomplishment. They knew that if they could master prayer, they would then know how to preach, how to evangelise, and how to do any of the other necessary tasks of carrying out their mission and calling in life. Perhaps there is no other prayer that has been recited by as many people, at as many times, in as many places, as this prayer - commonly called “The Lord’s Prayer.” It is often referred to as the “Model Prayer.” This prayer, found in Matthew 6:9-13, is a model and guide for our own prayer life. It contains a prayer for God’s glory and a prayer for our good.

A PRAYER FOR GOD’S GLORY

This prayer begins with the element of **worship**: “hallowed be Your name” (Matthew 6:9). The word *hallowed* means “sanctified: that which is set apart.” The name of the Lord is unlike any other name. It is holy. Jesus taught us here that prayer is to be entered into with a reverent and worshipful attitude as though we are coming to a King. The prayer also includes the element of **witness**: “Your kingdom come” (v10). When we pray this prayer, we are praying for those around us who have never entered God’s kingdom of grace by being born again. Jesus is coming again to set up His glorious kingdom. This model prayer for God’s glory also entails the element of **will**: “Your will be done” (v10). Jesus taught us here that we cannot come to God in prayer with a selfish spirit, bent only on our way and our will.

A PRAYER FOR OUR GOOD

The remainder of this model prayer consists of our personal petitions that result not only in God’s glory, but in our own good. We ask for **provision**: “Give us today our daily bread” (v11). We are dependent upon our heavenly Father to meet our basic needs of life. There is also a petition here for **pardon**: “forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors” (v12). Thus we come to God in prayer with a penitent spirit and not just a dependent one. We cannot come to Him with unconfessed and unforgiven sin in our lives. Once again note that every word of prayer is there for a reason. We also find a petition here for **protection**: “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (v13). We need God to lead us. He will never lead us to do what is wrong. There is a difference between the temptations of life and the trials of life that come our way. Trials often come from God to teach us to stand; temptation comes from the devil to cause us to stumble. We need God’s leadership and deliverance in our daily lives.

We begin this prayer by saying, “Our Father”. You cannot say “Our Father” unless you have been born into His family by trusting in His Son for the forgiveness of your sins and the gift of eternal life with Him. “Our Father.” Yes, we are not beggars cowering down at a back door looking for handouts from some cosmic benefactor. We are God’s children, seated at His table, making our requests known to Him. No wonder we are invited to come with boldness to His throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). Prayer has a twofold purpose: it is for God’s glory and our good.

As you memorise this verse, meditate on the fact that this is but a pattern for our praying. (see Matthew 6:5). It is a model for us to follow as we join the apostles in asking,
“Lord, teach us to pray.”