

SECTION 5:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus gave us his personal prayer, teaching us how to pray and inviting us to pray with him. The Lord's Prayer should not only be prayed along with Jesus, but should also be used as a guide to shape our own prayer patterns. Many of us know the Lord's Prayer, but have you ever stopped to think about what it means?

The Lord's Prayer	What does it mean?
Our Father in heaven	Jesus invites us to recognize God as Father, conveying the authority, warmth, and intimacy of a loving father's care, while emphasizing the sovereign rule of God over all creation from heaven
hallowed be your name	a petition that God would be treated as holy (set apart) with the highest respect and honor
your kingdom come	that God would extend his rule over the world and in the hearts and lives of believers in his church
your will be done	that God's desires would be carried out—this is a statement of submission to God's ways and his plans
on earth as it is in heaven	both a petition—that God's heavenly kingdom and Divine Will would be realized on earth—and a change in perspective in the prayer from heaven to earth
give us this day our daily bread	that God would provide for our daily physical needs, just as he did for the Israelites in the wilderness
and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors	that our personal fellowship with God, hindered by sin, would be restored
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil	that God would keep us from difficult situations—some of which may lead us toward sin—and help us to persevere through the hardship