

# 40 DAYS OF *prayer*

KIDS DEVOTIONAL



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# 40 DAYS OF prayer

## INTRO

Dear Child Champion,

Thank you so much for being dedicated to bringing children into the 40 Days of Prayer initiative with the Alliance family! This year, our focus is the Lord's Prayer as we journey through the theme, "Teach Us to Pray." This guide will help you introduce children to the theme through a small weekly kid's devotional, a key verse, and a weekly prayer prompt. Additionally, a brief video will recap each weekly piece as a supplemental resource. This guide can be used in a church setting or by a parent or guardian in the home to accompany the adult 40 Days of Prayer content.

This guide contains six devotionals and accompanying videos. If you are utilizing this in your church, it should be in addition to your weekly children's church curriculum. You can expect it to take 5-7 minutes to complete weekly. *Also, all key verses are from the NIV translation.*

We hope this resource will help as you encourage children to pray alongside their collective Alliance family. We believe children play a vital Kingdom role, and we are honored to have them on this journey with us!

Blessings,



Leah Broach

National Director for Alliance Kids



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## PRAYER IS PRAISE



### KEY VERSE

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name."*

—Matthew 6:9

Did you know that when you pray, you are talking to the God of the whole universe? He loves us and wants nothing more than to hear us speak to Him. When we pray, we are making His heart glad because we are saying that we know He is the Creator of everything and that only He can hold this world together.

When Jesus began teaching His disciples to pray, He told them to always start by praising God for who He is. The first line of the Lord's prayer, which Jesus taught them, says, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name." Most people never use the word "hallowed" anymore, and it might be a word you have never heard! So, let's find out what that means and how we can talk to God today with words we know to praise God the way Jesus taught us.

The dictionary says "hallowed" means "greatly honored, holy, special, and set apart." So, when Jesus told His disciples to begin their prayers to God by saying, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name," He was telling them to say something like this: "Dear God, I know you are our Father in heaven, and You are special, holy, and like no one else on the whole earth!"

When we begin our prayers like that, we are not just talking to God; we are also praising God. And praising God is a way to worship Him. Jesus taught us to pray first by teaching us to praise. When you begin talking to God, always start by saying true things about how special and honored He is. When we begin our prayers with praise, we pray just like Jesus!

Begin your prayers today just like Jesus by praising God for who He is!



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## PRAYER IS PARTNERSHIP



### KEY VERSE

*"Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

–Matthew 6:10

We're learning how to pray like Jesus together. Last week, we learned that our prayers are also our praise. When we pray like Jesus, we begin by saying true things about our great God. This week, we will learn that praying isn't just about God but also about us.

In the Lord's Prayer in Matthew, Jesus began by saying, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This week, we will learn more about how our prayers show our partnership with God.

Do you know what a partner is? A partner is someone we are friends with and trust. A partner is someone we share our lives with. Think about a wheelbarrow race. You must have a partner to do the race. One person is on the ground like a wheelbarrow while another is steering the wheelbarrow by holding their partner's legs. Together, they take off and race against other wheelbarrow racers to see who can cross the finish line first.

In our lives with God, He loves to use us in His work in the world. He doesn't need our help, but He wants us to be a part of what He is doing to show people

how much He loves them. Jesus told us that when we pray, we need to talk about how we work together with God for His good purposes. When Jesus said, “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done,” He was telling God that He wanted to be a part of the work God was doing on earth so that life here could become more and more like life in heaven. This happens when we partner with God to share His love and show it to others around us.

Have you ever thought about heaven? Do you wonder what it’s like? We know it will be beautiful and perfect. People will always be happy and kind. Everyone in heaven will know and love Jesus. It is a place where only good, true, and lovely things exist. When we pray, “on earth as it is in heaven,” we are asking God for His help and telling Him that we will help make our world look as much like heaven now as it can. That means we are partnering with God to do His will to bring His love and goodness to the world. Jesus prayed these things, and we can pray just like Him!



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## PRAYER IS ASKING!



### KEY VERSE

*"Give us this day our daily bread."*

–Matthew 6:11

We are halfway through learning the Lord's Prayer. Can you say the lines we've already learned? Keep practicing and you will know the Lord's prayer by heart! Let's say together what we've learned so far:

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name,  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.*

This week, we are learning how to ask for things from God. Have you ever asked God for something? When Jesus taught us to pray, He taught us that asking is good! Jesus asked God to provide for His needs. He asked God to give Him what He needed each day. This request that Jesus made was for the food He needed each day and all the things He needed to live here on earth.

We need many things to live strong, healthy lives for God. We need food, shelter, clothes, and people in our lives. We need friendships and good places to use our gifts and talents. We need strong bodies to do His work. We need healthy minds to think about the true things in this world. We need many things to do

the work God has asked us to do, and He likes when we ask Him for things. He doesn't even mind when we ask Him for things we want, not just the things we need.

When we ask God for something, we are saying He is powerful, and He can answer us. Another way we worship Him is by telling true things about Him. Also, when we ask for something from God, we show that we need Him in our lives and that having a relationship with Him is good.

It is important to know that asking God for things doesn't guarantee that we will get everything we want. God answers our asking prayers in three different ways. Sometimes, He gives us things exactly as we ask for them. Other times, He does not give us what we ask for because He knows we need something different to make us more like Him. Also, He sometimes allows us to wait for the things we ask. He may be saying, "Yes, but not right now."

Here are the important things to remember about prayer: God loves to hear your requests; He knows exactly what you need and will always give you the things that are best for you according to His will; He hears our prayers, and He always answers. We need to remember that His answers are the best even if they aren't what we asked for.

Let's spend some time today thanking God for His good gifts and asking Him for the things we need most to do what He has asked us to do in this world.

What will you ask God for today?



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## PRAYER IS SAYING



### KEY VERSE

*"Forgive our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."*  
—Matthew 6:12

Listening to how Jesus prayed has already taught us a lot of things. We've learned that we praise and worship our God when we pray and that we partner with God to make our earth right now reflect the love and truth of heaven. We listened as Jesus asked God to provide for His daily needs. This helped us understand that God likes to hear our requests and always answers us according to His will.

Today, we are learning that praying is also saying! Just as Jesus taught us to ask God for things according to His will, He also taught us to say the true things we know God wants to do in our lives. In the Lord's Prayer, we see the next line: "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Jesus is saying that God desires to forgive us and wants us to forgive others. Some Bibles use the word "debts," some use "transgressions," and others use the word "sin." No matter what word your Bible uses for "debts," it does mean sin. When we say, "Forgive our debts," we are saying that God forgives our sins because of the saving work of Jesus. We also say that because we experience God's forgiveness, we will give grace to others as we forgive their wrongdoings against us.

It is very important to understand that every one of us has sin in our lives because we are not perfect. Sometimes we will choose to do the wrong thing, be unkind, or not show love to others as we should. All of us fail, and we all need God's forgiveness. We know that because Jesus came into this world, died for us, and rose from the dead, we can receive forgiveness from God. That forgiveness allows us to spend eternity with God in heaven. It also allows us to see how important it is for everyone to have a chance to receive God's forgiveness.

When we say that God forgives us as we forgive others, we are trusting God's power and love while also learning to share His love with others. It is easy to want forgiveness for ourselves. It is harder to forgive those who we may think do not deserve it. But God never turns away anyone who wants His forgiveness. He gives His grace freely and asks us to do the same. We have been given so much through Jesus, so let's share that with others.



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## PRAYER IS PROTECTION



### KEY VERSE

*"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."*

–Matthew 6:13

Did you know there were so many things to learn from the Lord's Prayer? I am happy we have this prayer in our Bibles to teach us how to speak to God. Praying is a gift that allows us to talk to the Creator of the universe! We worship and partner with Him, talk to Him, and make our requests known; He loves to hear us pray. Jesus showed us many times in Scripture how important praying is.

One very important part of prayer is understanding that our prayers give us protection. In the Lord's Prayer, we are reminded that the evil one, Satan, wants to tempt us to do the wrong things and not trust Christ to save us. We are to pray that God will protect us from the evil one and lead us away from temptation.

God's Word tells us that Satan is at work in this world trying his best to lead us away from Christ. But we know God is all-powerful and cannot be ruled by Satan. We know that God protects His children against the works of the devil. The Lord's Prayer reminds us that God is our Protector as we pray, "and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

We have nothing to fear when we trust in the power of God. He is our Protector and Defender. He is all-powerful and loves us with a strong, unbeatable love. Knowing the truth of God's power is very comforting to all believers. Today, let's be sure to thank God for His power and protection.



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## PRAYER IS HOPE



### KEY VERSE

*"For Yours is the Kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever and ever, amen."*

We have made it to the end of the Lord's Prayer. Let's take a minute to say the entire prayer together:

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the Kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever and ever,  
amen.*

It is wonderful when we learn God's Word by heart and can say Scripture aloud. I hope you can learn to say the Lord's Prayer out loud. Many people learned this prayer as a kid and have never forgotten it. You can be another kid who remembers this prayer your whole life!

While learning this prayer is good and important, you don't always have to pray this same prayer every time you talk to God. Understanding how Jesus taught us to pray helps us as we learn to speak and pray with God. God isn't worried if we don't know all the words. He isn't worried if you don't know this prayer at all. He longs most for you to simply talk to Him. He will hear all your words.

We use this prayer because it helps us to know how Jesus prayed. It helps us to understand how God works in us to do His perfect will in this world. It helps us to praise God for His goodness and power. We learn that it is good to ask God for the things we need and to say the true things about His power.

The final line in the Lord's Prayer is not actually in the Bible, but it helps us understand why all of this matters. We can boldly talk and pray to God because of our hope in His power to keep all His promises. We know that His Kingdom and power will never end. We know that He keeps every promise, which fills our lives with hope and confidence that our God is great and greatly to be praised. We trust and believe because He is exactly who He says He is.

And just like Jesus, we can remember that every time we pray, we are praying to a mighty God who answers our prayers according to His will. Praying is the best use of hope!



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