



Week of Apr 23 - a

Scripture: Mt 6:9-13

Main Idea: Jesus gives a model prayer, teaching his disciples how to pray. This prayer wasn't intended to be something we repeat from memory, as much as a way to pray and important things to pray for. It starts out honoring God's name as holy. Then he prays for the kingdom (church) to come (which happened in Acts 2). He prays for God's will to be done. Then Jesus asks for daily bread. Following that he prays for forgiveness (though he himself wouldn't need any) and references how we must be forgiving to others. Then he concludes by praying for God to guide us away from temptation and rescue us from evil.

Questions

Preschool: When we pray, should we only say the Lord's Prayer and nothing else?

Grade school: Do you remember reading this in the Bible? It's an example, not a memory verse to be said when you pray. You can use it for a guideline, but if you just recite it... you really aren't praying. Pray like you are talking to God, not reading.

Teen: How complete is this prayer? How many areas of our lives would we cover each day if we prayed this way, not reciting it from memory, but truly prayed over each of these areas of our lives?

Adult: Jesus spent time in prayer often. Sometimes we forget about the other prayers which are recorded (e.g. Mt 26:9, John 17). Have you ever wondered what Jesus' prayers were like when he slipped away by himself? Would you like to hear Jesus talk to his Father in that setting? If so, why? What do you think would be different in an individual prayer versus this model prayer?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY:

For God to help us remember to pray for the most important things, like our daily needs, for his will to be done, and for forgiveness of our sins

April Memory Verse:

Psalm 56:3 (ESV)

³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.



Week of Apr 23 - b

Scripture: Mt 6:14-15

Main Idea: After the model prayer, Jesus makes a statement about forgiveness. He points out that we cannot expect God to forgive us of our sins if we are unwilling to forgive those who sin against us. This is one of the most difficult but important teachings of Christ.

Questions

Preschool: Jesus tells us that we have to forgive to be forgiven. Is it hard to forgive people who wrong you? Can you think of a time someone hurt your feelings? Can you forgive them? (explain how to forgive)

Grade school: Have you ever done something that hurt someone's feelings? Did you want them to forgive you? If your best friend hurts your feelings, do you forgive them? Or...do you wait for an apology before you forgive them? Jesus taught that if people want to be forgiven, they have to forgive others, if they apologize or not.

Teen: Why do you think Jesus chose to speak about the forgiveness portion of the prayer above all others? To forgive someone who has hurt you can be very difficult. What can you do to help yourself with forgiveness? How much greater does God forgive us, given all the mistakes and sin we have in our past?

Adult: Forgiveness is difficult for us as humans. We want to place requirements around our forgiveness of others. Do we tell someone they are forgiven yet hold it in reserve to bring it out again at a future date? Does compassion for the other person help us to forgive them? How can we get beyond the break and begin to repair a relationship? Most importantly, the Greek word translated forgiveness means "to let go." Does remembering our own transgressions help us to let go when someone else sins against us?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY:

For God to help us appreciate his grace and mercy to forgive our sins. And also for us to forgive others when they sin against us

April Memory Verse:

Psalm 56:3 (ESV)

³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.