

## MON 5-22

"There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all." [Ephesians 4:5-6, CEB] The Lord's Prayer unites believers as we pray a common prayer to align our hearts with the heart of God. Jesus used plural pronouns like "our" daily bread as a reminder that we are part of one family, united with all believers.

**PRAY:** Loving God, guide your people all over the earth. Help us to live so others see obvious evidence of unity and love in the lives of your children. Amen.

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## TUES 5-23

"So he got up and went to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him.'" [Luke 15:20, CEB] The story of the Prodigal Son reminds us of God's loving and forgiving nature. Even when we stray from God's path, we are always accepted as beloved children.

**PRAY:** Lord Jesus, you taught us that God is merciful. I am so grateful that even when my failures are epic, I can count on complete and unconditional forgiveness. Amen.

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## WED 5-24

"'Abba, Father,' he cried out, 'everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.'" [Mark 14:36, NLT] Jesus demonstrated for us a close relationship with God that included obedience in the most difficult of circumstances. In his darkest hour, Jesus sought the comfort of God's love.

**PRAY:** Great God, thank you that I can trust in your goodness. I treasure the close parental relationship that you offer your children. Help me to grow in my ability to trust and obey. Amen.

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## THURS 5-25

"These are just the beginning of all that he does, merely a whisper of his power. Who, then, can comprehend the thunder of his power?" [Job 26:14, NLT] We can't begin to understand God's might and vast nature. We have a creator who is capable of more than we can ask or imagine!

**PRAY:** Creator God, I am blown away when I think of how majestic you are and that you still care for me as a loving parent cares for a child. Thank you for your perfect love. Amen.

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## FRI 5-26

"I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus." [Philippians 1:6, CEB] God's spirit is at work in our lives to the very end. God was at work before the foundation of the world, is at work today, and will always work to make us more like Christ.

**PRAY:** Great God, I believe in and trust you. Help me to live and act in ways that show that your love has touched my life. Thank you for the ways you have transformed me. Amen.

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## SAT 5-27

"I give thanks to you, my Lord, my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify your name forever..." [Psalm 86:12, CEB] Glorifying God's holy name is something we do with every breath we take, every word we speak, every choice, every action. Giving our whole heart requires total surrender!

**PRAY:** Lord, I want every part of my life to honor your holy name. Give me the strength and courage that it takes to let go of things that I do that don't represent you well. Amen.

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**Intro** The Lord's Prayer is something many know by heart but perhaps haven't intentionally studied. Its deep meaning and application is powerful in the life of a Christ follower.

## Reflect

- Read Jesus' prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 aloud. The Lord's Prayer concisely covered a wide range of topics, from the lofty ("Bring in your kingdom") to the every day ("Give us the bread we need for today") [CEB]. Are there topics you tend to avoid praying about? Why?
- Some feel that maybe God is uninterested or that they need to impress God with the words they choose when they pray. How comfortable are you with being yourself when you are talking to God?
- "Abba" was the Aramaic term Jesus used to address God. It was a respectful but intimate way to address one's father. When you think about your relationship with God, are you comfortable with an informal way of relating? Do you think it is important to strike a balance between reverent and informal? Why or why not?
- Were both of your parents trustworthy and nurturing? How can times of close connection during prayer help us grow beyond any painful gaps in the human parenting we received?
- The word used for heaven in the NIV version of the Bible is the Greek word *ouranos*, which means "air" or "atmosphere." How do you feel when you imagine God to be as close to you as the air you breathe, as opposed to God residing in the "far, far, away" sense that some have about heaven?
- One way to think of the word "hallow" would be to recognize something's worth. How do our thoughts, words, and actions "recognize" God's worth?

**Pray** **Lord Jesus, help me never to be too busy to talk with you. Thank you for this ongoing conversation we call "prayer." It is comforting to remember that I am able to be in constant connection with your love. Amen.**



**What did I learn?**

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**How might it apply in my life?**

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**What is a next step I can take?**

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