

## MON 5-29

"Jesus once again addressed them: 'I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in.'" [John 8:12, MSG] Begin this week by centering your thoughts on the Light of the World. In the life of Christ, we see God's ways clearly revealed.

**PRAY:** Lord Jesus, bring your kingdom to earth in my life. I don't want to stumble around trying to figure out what to do on my own. Help me follow your ways this week. Amen.

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## TUES 5-30

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." [Isaiah 41:10, NIV] Sometimes it can be discouraging when the things going on around us are far from "as it is in heaven." In times of discouragement, we must double down and recognize our role in being a glimmer of hope.

**PRAY:** Gracious God, so much going on in the world tugs me toward hopelessness. Renew and reinforce my ability to live in the light and be hope for others. Amen.

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## WED 5-31

"...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." [Philippians 2:8, CEB] Jesus left nothing on the table--he demonstrated complete surrender. In light of his example, we must search ourselves and willingly offer everything about us to God.

**PRAY:** Loving Lord, come and rule over every part of my mind, heart, and soul. Keep showing me the small ways that I keep hold of my will instead of yours. Amen.

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## THURS 6-1

"Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long." [Psalm 25:5, CEB] God alone is our hope and salvation. Each day we must open our ears to hear and our hearts to obey so we can know our path.

**PRAY:** God of wisdom, engrave your instructions on my heart. Place a strong desire within me to discover and do what you have planned for me. Amen.

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## FRI 6-2

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!" [Isaiah 52:7, NLT] Our lives can tell the greatest love story of all time! We are messengers, and our choices determine the quality of the message we share.

**PRAY:** King Jesus, as I interact with the people I encounter today, let your kingdom come in me as my actions share the good news. Amen.

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## SAT 6-3

"You light a lamp for me. The LORD, my God, lights up my darkness." [Psalm 18:28, NLT] The messy areas of our lives can overshadow the good when we aren't depending on God for guidance. When we lose our way, we can call on the Lord for help.

**PRAY:** Creator of light, illuminate the darkest places of my life. Give me the courage to uncover and remove anything that doesn't fit into your perfect plans for me. Amen.

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**Intro** The Lord's Prayer teaches us deep truths about God, about our connection to God, and about life in general. This week we will explore what Jesus meant by the phrase, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

## Reflect

- There are many common thoughts about what the kingdom of heaven is like. What comes to mind for you?
- In Matthew 3:2, John the Baptist preached, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" [CEB] John was referring to Jesus as the kingdom of heaven, live and in-person! It was no longer a future, some day, event or far away place. In what ways is God's kingship a current reality in your life? How does John's description of heaven change your previously held thoughts?
- Read Matthew 4:17-23. When the disciples were called to follow Jesus, they dropped what they knew--their security of sorts--to experience God's kingdom. Is there something you had to let go of when you first decided to follow Christ? Is there something you are still holding on to that might be a barrier in your relationship with Jesus now?
- Jesus' words, "your will be done," implied a necessary obedience for participating in God's kingdom. As God's children, we acknowledge we are not in charge--it is God who sets forth the plans to bring heaven to earth. What is your understanding about how to discover God's will so that you can be a part of making it happen?
- One litmus test to discern if your choices are obedient and helping to bring about God's will is whether or not you try to hide your behavior. Things that bring us feelings of shame--things we want to keep hidden, generally are not what God wants for us. Can you think of a time in the past when you found yourself feeling the need to hide your actions? Looking back, were they choices you regret? How did the light of Christ change your behavior?

**Pray** **Jesus, I acknowledge you as Lord of my life, and I want to change my heart and life so heaven can be seen in me. Help me to test every choice and actively work to show your love to those around me. Thank you for showing me the way. 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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