

## Small Group Discussion Guide (11.19.23) — Read Matthew 6:9-15

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- How should the transition from focusing on God and His glory to our daily needs encourage us today? Or, another way to ask it, what are Jesus' instructions to pray these final three petitions meant to communicate to us about our Heavenly Father?
- How might the prayer for “daily bread” help to guard and protect us from anxiety and self-sufficiency? In what ways, are you tempted toward either of those two things? How can you practically make this prayer more of a routine in your life?
- If the Christian has already been “forgiven their debts” at the moment of saving faith, then why should we continue to ask God to forgive our sins daily? What do we mean that this isn't a prayer of justification before God, but of communion with God?
- What does this image of “debt” communicate about our sins? How do passages like Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 2:13-14, Psalm 103:12, Jeremiah 31:34 remind us of what God has done for us in salvation? How do you need to be reassured of this today? In what ways are you prone to doubt that your debt has been paid in full?
- In vs. 14-15, why does Jesus say that God's forgiveness of us is conditional upon our forgiveness of others? How is this not the basis or cause of our salvation, but the effect or fruit of it? (if you want to discuss further, read the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant in Matthew 18:23-35)
- When we ask the Lord to “lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” what are asking Him to do? What does this request remind us about Satan? What does this request remind us about ourselves? What does this request remind us about God?
- In what ways in your life right now do you need prayer to either be removed from a tempting situation, circumstance, or trial, or need God's grace in order to be given the strength to stand-up under it?
- As we come now to the end of our study of *The Lord's Prayer*, in what ways have you been challenged most over these last three weeks in your own prayer life?