



Sermon Notes: "Pray Like This"

Matthew 6:9-13

3.16.25

Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy.

Point: The foundation of authentic prayer is knowing who we're speaking to—both our loving Father (intimacy) and our holy God (reverence).

- How have my words and actions honored God's name this week? Where have I fallen short?
- When have I experienced the joy of approaching God as both loving Father and holy King, and what helps me enter this relationship fully?

May Your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Point: We pray not just for God's future reign, but for His Kingdom values and will to transform our present reality.

- Where have I seen glimpses of God's Kingdom in my life this week? Am I paying attention?
- Am I willing to align my life with God's will? What one step of obedience is He asking of me?

Give us today the food we need,

Point: When we pray for daily bread, we trust God for today, release tomorrow's worries, and see others' needs around us.

- Where do I rely on myself instead of acknowledging God as my provider?
- How am I extending God's provision to others in need? In what ways could I better share my "daily bread" with my community?

and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

Point: This prayer invites honest self-examination before God, revealing that those who truly receive His forgiveness will naturally extend it to others.

- What sins am I reluctant to confess to God? What keeps me from receiving His forgiveness?
- Who do I struggle to forgive? How is this unforgiveness affecting me?

And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

Point: Acknowledging both temptation's power and evil's reality is often personal. Jesus teaches us to actively seek God's guidance and protection rather than relying on our own strength.

- What specific temptations have I been trying to resist through my own strength rather than seeking God's help?
- How might my approach to these struggles change if I truly believed God's power was available to me?

So What?

Each morning "pray like this": Pause after each phrase, using our reflection questions to guide your meditation and make this prayer your own.

For Study, Reflection, Discussion:

1. Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? *What* was it and *why* did it resonate with you?

Read Matthew 6:9-13

2. How has your understanding of prayer changed when you consider you're speaking to both a loving Father and a holy God? Share an experience where this balance was especially meaningful.
3. What's one area in your neighborhood, workplace, or family where you've seen God's Kingdom breaking in? How is God inviting you to participate in this work?
4. In our culture of abundance and self-sufficiency, what challenges do you face in genuinely depending on God for daily needs? How could this prayer help reshape those habits?
5. What is the most difficult aspect of forgiveness for you—receiving God's forgiveness or extending it to others? What was one insight about forgiveness from Sunday's message that was most helpful?
6. How does acknowledging the personal nature of temptation and spiritual warfare change your approach to these struggles? What practical steps help you rely on God's strength rather than your own?

Specific Action Step:

This week: Begin each morning with the Lord's Prayer—not as a recitation, but as a conversation:

- Read each line slowly, then pause.
- Use the reflection questions in your notes to guide your meditation.
- Make each phrase personal and specific to your life right now.
- Allow at least 10-15 minutes for this prayer time.

Keep your sermon notes with you this week. Tuck them in your Bible or place them where you'll see them during your prayer time. Let this ancient prayer become new and transformative as you make it your own.

Don't Forget:

- Emily's Team World Vision Run. Matching Fund Day is **March 21st**. (notice date change from the 22nd) See the church website/events for more info.
- Be Praying for Disaster Relief Trip to Arden NC: March 23rd – 29th.
- A Special Prayer Team training April 1st 7-8pm at ECC. Open to anyone interested in joining our team of prayer warriors.

Prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, holy is Your name.

Forgive our hurried, distracted prayers that focus more on requests than on who You are. Transform our prayer lives through Jesus' pattern. Help us approach You with both childlike trust and holy reverence.

May Your Kingdom break into our ordinary days and our hearts align with Your will. Provide our daily needs while teaching us to trust for tomorrow and share with others.

Forgive our sins as we forgive others. Protect us from temptation, reminding us Your power works through our weakness.

Thank You that we can pray simply and sincerely—just as Jesus taught us.

Amen.