

The Lord's Prayer: God's Glory

Lesson 38 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will examine the reasons we pray the Lord's Prayer and its potential to change us.
- The participants will explore the first three petitions of the Lord's Prayer.

Content Summary

1. At the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples seven petitions (requests) commonly known as the Lord's Prayer. We call it the Lord's Prayer because the Lord Jesus Christ gave it to us.
2. Because this prayer is a summary of all that we need to live the Christian life, the Church teaches that the Lord's Prayer is a summary of the entire Gospel.
3. The seven petitions teach us what we really need to live holy, happy, moral lives.
4. The Lord's Prayer has a key place in the prayer life of Christians for two reasons: first, it comes to us directly from Jesus, and second, this prayer lays the foundation for all our desires in the Christian life.
5. The opening address helps us to place ourselves in the presence of God and in the proper frame of mind. The first three petitions are theological; that is, they are oriented toward God, to help draw us closer to God and his glory. The last four petitions are oriented to human need.
6. When we pray "who art in heaven," it is an expression of our desire to be in union with God and our desire that God dwell in our heart and help us to love as he loves.
7. The first petition of the Lord's Prayer reminds us of the power of God's name and of our responsibility to treat it with great care. It is a summary of all the petitions that follow, because it calls us to hallow God's name in everything we do.
8. The petition "thy kingdom come" primarily refers to the final coming of the Reign of God through Christ's return. When you pray this petition of the Lord's Prayer, you are also saying that you commit yourself to Jesus' mission here on earth.
9. God's will is that we love everyone, even our enemies, with a love that includes serving, forgiving, and sometimes suffering, without receiving love in return.

(All summary points are taken from *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Third Edition*. Copyright © 2013 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.)

