

The Lord's Prayer: Human Need

Lesson 39 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will reflect on the second part of the Lord's Prayer, which calls us to be in relationship with others and with the world.
- The participants will explore how the final four petitions of the Lord's Prayer are Jesus' answer to the desires of the Christian heart.

Content Summary

1. The final four petitions of the Lord's Prayer can be thought of as Jesus' answer to the desires of the Christian heart. He teaches us to boldly ask that our lives be nourished, healed of sin, and made victorious in the struggle of good over evil.
2. In asking only for our daily bread, the petition emphasizes our radical dependence on God. The prayer asks only for bread for a day; tomorrow we will have to ask again. Every day we must acknowledge our need for God's bounty.
3. The petition is not asking just for bread, but for all the essential things we need to sustain our lives.
4. "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us" places a strict requirement on us. The two parts of the petition are joined by the word *as*, which means that our request to be forgiven will not be heard unless we first forgive others.
5. Forgiving as God forgives includes forgiving our enemies. We can't pretend that this is easy. It is only by the power of the Spirit that we can accomplish this.
6. In the original Greek, *lead us not* means both "do not allow us to enter" and "do not let us yield." So to rephrase the petition, we are asking God "not to allow us to enter situations of temptation" or "not to let us yield to temptation." Of course, God would never lead us into evil.
7. Temptations are invitations or enticements to commit unwise or immoral acts that often include promises or rewards to make them more appealing.
8. The last petition of the Lord's Prayer continues the theme of the sixth petition, the struggle of good over evil. We ask to be delivered from evil and strengthened to persevere against the evil in the world until Christ's Parousia (Christ's second coming).
9. Even when we pray the Lord's Prayer in private, we pray in communion with the whole Church for the needs of the entire human family.

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

