

# The Lord's Prayer: Human Need

## Core Activity

### “Give Us This Day”

1. Before the class's arrival, write the following sentence starters in a prominent spot and allow space under each starter for writing comments:

- The world would . . .
- I would feel . . .
- We would have . . .
- We would not need . . .

2. Once the students have taken their seats, offer the following explanation in your own words:

- This activity will help you further explore the Lord's Prayer by looking at the final four petitions' meanings and implications for us.
- “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” (*The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Third Edition [CFH]*, p. 425).

3. Divide the students into five groups and designate one of the following lines from the Lord's Prayer to each group:

Give us this day  
our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

4. Tell the groups that they have two tasks to accomplish:

- Identify in just a few words the central value or teaching of Jesus reflected in your assigned prayer phrase.
- Identify at least three applications that your portion of the prayer might have for young people today.

Circulate among the groups to ensure that they correctly name the core value of each teaching. The following list can serve as a reference point for you:

- *Give us this day.* Depend radically on God.
- *Our daily bread.* Ask for all essentials, share, and rely on God.

- *And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.* Forgive and ask for forgiveness.
- *And lead us not into temptation.* Invite the Holy Spirit to keep watch with you and provide guidance.
- *But deliver us from evil.* Pray for the whole human family.

5. Gather everyone back together as a class. Invite one person from the group assigned the phrase “Give us this day” to come forward and present the results of its discussion. At the conclusion of the presentation, offer comments taken from pages 425–426 of the *CFH*.

Continue the process by inviting one person from each group to come forward and present the results of the group’s discussion, calling on the groups in the order that their phrases appear in the prayer. At the conclusion of each presentation, offer comments taken from the corresponding section on pages 427–434 of the *CFH*.

6. Refer the students to the sentence starters you posted before class. Tell them to imagine what it would be like if all people followed the suggestions the groups offered in their presentations and the truths and teachings Jesus gives us in the Lord’s Prayer. Allow a few minutes for the students to quietly respond to all the sentence starters. Invite them to then prayerfully go to the board and each write their responses to one or two of the sentence starters.

7. For a closing prayer, read aloud a few of the responses as petitions and ask the students to respond, “Your will be done.”

(This activity is adapted from the *TC: Prayer manual*.)

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## Core Activity Extension

### Many Prayers in One Prayer

The handout for this activity may be given to the students to complete individually as homework, or it may be completed by small groups in class as described in the following procedure steps.



1. Divide the class into small groups, and give each group a copy of the handout “Praise, Petition, and Promise” (Document #: TX003212). Note that the Lord’s Prayer includes three forms of prayer:

- praise
- petition
- promise

Ask the students to complete the “Identification” section of the handout by identifying in their small groups the types of prayer expressed in each phrase of the Lord’s Prayer.

2. Invite the students back together as a class to review their responses. Conduct a brief discussion about the various types of prayers found in the Lord's Prayer. Consider using the following reflection question: "How and why do you think Jesus chose the wording for this prayer?"

3. Conclude by inviting the students to write a personal reflection on one of the petitions, praises, or promises found in the Lord's Prayer. If time permits and the students are willing, invite a few to read their reflections aloud.

(This activity is adapted from Maryann Hakowski, *Teaching Manual for "PrayerWays,"* p. 139.)

## Additional Activities

### Triumph Over Evil

1. Bring in at least two copies of the day's newspaper from your community and divide the class into four groups. Assign one of the following topics to each of the groups:

- global evil
- global triumph over evil
- local evil
- local triumph over evil

2. Give national or world sections of the papers to the two global groups, and local or state sections of the papers to the two local groups. Instruct the groups to scour the paper for either the most threatening evil or the clearest sign of the conquering of evil.

3. Call each group to present its findings to the rest of the class, and lead the class in a prayer of thanksgiving for the triumphs over evil, or in a prayer of petition for threatening evils.

(This activity is adapted from the *TC: Prayer* manual.)

### The Two Scriptural Versions

1. Distribute Bibles and ask the students to compare the two versions of the Lord's Prayer found in Scripture:

- Matt. 6:9–13
- Luke 11:2–4

2. Instruct the young people to write journal reflections in response to the following questions:

- What phrases or words are included in Matthew that are not included in Luke?
- We know God's will is for us to be faithful to our roles. Please explain how you feel God calling you to do his will on earth as in heaven, in these roles:
  - daughter or son
  - student
  - friend
- What particular temptations do you need to be led away from?

(This activity is adapted from the *TC: Prayer* manual.)

## Signing the Lord's Prayer

Teach the students the Lord's Prayer in American Sign Language. The Web site [www.mlhs.com](http://www.mlhs.com) provides illustrations. Once you are at the home page, click on the link for Martin Luther Homes. Click on the "Management" link. Then click on the "Communications" link. Under the section "Information," select the link for the prayer. (This activity is adapted from the *TC: Prayer* manual.)

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