

The Principles and Practice of Prayer

SQ 1995 John Brug

The class will study the theological principles and the models of prayer found in the Holy Scriptures. On the basis of this study the class will develop a Bible class or a plan for encouraging the greater practice of prayer in their own lives and in their congregations. In general the work sheets will be in a format that can be adapted to a congregational Bible class (They are available on request as an ASCII file on your 3 1/2 or 5 1/4 computer disk).

Tentative Schedule

- Hour 1: Introduction and Bibliography. Start Principles of Prayer.
- Hour 2: Principles of Prayer
- Hour 3: Kinds of Prayer I
- Hour 4: Kinds of Prayer II
- Hour 5: Sources of Prayers I
- Hour 6: Sources of Prayers II
- Hour 7: Helps and Hindrances in Prayer
- Hour 8: The Lord's Prayer I
- Hour 9: The Lord's Prayer II
- Hour 10: Great Prayers I
- Hour 11: Great Prayers II
- Hour 12: Prayer and the Family
- Hour 13: Prayer and the Pastor
- Hour 14: Prayer in the Church and School
- Hour 15: Prayer in the World or Prayer Fellowship (if time permits)

Bring: Bibles, prayer books, *Christian Worship*, books about prayer, your ideas.

- Assignments:
- *Daily preparation of worksheets
 - *300 pages of reading about prayer to be reported in a reading log (not a detailed book report).
 - *A brief book report on a prayer book or book about prayer which you would recommend to the class. Follow the *Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly* format.
 - *Brief paper on one of these topics, based on survey of the Bible, not on reading of secondary sources.
 - "Lessons for a Pastor From Paul's Prayers"
 - "Lessons from the Prayers of Revelation."
 - "Great Intercessors in the Bible"

The Principles and Practice of Prayer

Sessions 1 and 2: Principles of Prayer

What Is Prayer

Write your definition of prayer below. Compare and discuss the definitions suggested.

Discuss Luther's Comment: A Christian is always praying, whether he is sleeping or waking, for his heart is always praying. Even a little sigh is a great prayer.

Why Should We Pray?

* Prayer is commanded by God:

1 Ch 16:11
Ps 50:15
Mt 7:7
Ph 4:6

* God promises to answer our prayers:

Ps 91:15-16
Ro 8:32
Ja 5:16
Ep 3:20
Ps 145:18,19
Mt 7:11

Is prayer a duty or a privilege?

* There is great need for prayer. Give evidence for this.

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* True prayer is offered only to the Triune God in Jesus' name:

Jo 16:23
Jo 14:14

Not to saints or angels: Is 63:16,
Co 2:18,
Re 19:10

Not deistic prayer: Jo 5:23

Not mystic prayer, but to a personal God Mt 6:32,
Mt 10:29

Therefore only Christians can truly pray: Ro 10:2-3
Jo 5:23

* True prayer is sincere: not for praise of men--Mt 6:5-6
Is 29:13
not vain repetition-- Mt 6:7-8

* True prayer is persistent: Lk 18:1-8
Lk 11: 5-10
Ge 18:23-33
Ge 32:9-12, 24-30

* True prayer is reverent: Jo 13:13
Jo 15:15

* True prayer places a priority on spiritual things:
Mt 6:9-13

* True prayer flows from a forgiving heart:
Mt 6: 14-15
Mt 18:21-35

* True prayer flows from a trusting heart:
Mt 7:7-11
Mt 21:21-22
Ja 1:6-8

* True prayer is in accord with God's will:
1 Jo 5:14-15
Ja 4:2-3
2 Co 12:7-10
Mt 26:39

* Always pray: 1 Th 5:17
Hab 3:17-18
Phil 4:6
Ps 109:4

* Pray everywhere: Jonah 2:1
Ac 16:24-25,
Ac 27:35,
Re 6:9-10

* Prayer and action go together: Mt 9:38-10:1
Ne 4:9

Discuss:

Praying is very difficult work. This is the reason it is also very rare.

Do you agree?

We should pray when we are in a praying mood, for it would be sinful to neglect so fair an opportunity. We should pray when we are not in a praying mood, for it would be dangerous to remain in so unhealthy a condition.

The best way to learn how to pray is to pray, and the best way to pray well is to pray much.

At home read Hymns 407-413 and jot down some of the lessons you learn there.

*O You by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer, Lord, you have trod--Lord, teach us how to pray.*

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Sessions 3 and 4: Kinds of Prayer

Just as we have many different kinds of conversation with other people, we may have many different kinds of conversation with God. In the next two lessons we will consider some of the main forms of prayer. Of course, many of our prayers are a blend of several forms of prayer.

Two types of prayer are personal prayers which we offer as individuals and public prayers which we offer as a group. What are the special advantages of each of these types of prayer?

PRAYERS OF PRAISE, ADORATION, OR MEDITATION

In these prayers we simply speak to God about his greatness and ponder it.

Read Psalm 8. What is the psalmist's purpose in this prayer?
How is this prayer a benefit to the psalmist?

Can you list other prayers of this type?

PRAYERS OF THANKS

In these prayers we thank God for blessings he has given us. Why is this one of the most important types of prayer?

Read Psalm 136 antiphonally. List the things for which God is thanked:

Read Psalms 103 and 104 and list the things for which God is thanked:

Why is this type of prayer rare? Lk 17:11-19

Can you list other prayers of this type?

PRAYERS OF REPENTANCE OR CONFESSION

In these prayer we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness. We then ask God for spiritual gifts which will enable us to amend our sinful lives.

Such prayers may be very simple. *Read Mark 9:24 and Luke 18:13* and discuss their beautiful brevity.

Such prayers may be more detailed. *Read Ps 51 and Ps 32*. List the most important elements of these two prayers.

Read Ezra's prayer in Ezra 9. What are the strengths of this prayer?

Can you list other prayers of this type?

Perhaps "prevention prayers" also belong here: Ps 141:3-4
Ps 19:13

PRAYERS FOR GUIDANCE AND UNDERSTANDING

In these prayers we seek guidance for some decision we are making or understanding of some burden we are bearing.

What are some of the times of life when a prayer for guidance is especially appropriate?

Consider: Gen 24:12-14
Gen 46:1-3
Acts 1:24
1 Sam 9:13

How does God answer a prayer for guidance?

Read Jer 12:1-4.

Is such a prayer proper and beneficial? (Consider Mt 27:46)

Read God's response in Jer 12:5-6. Why does he give such a response?

Read and evaluate Jer 20:7-18.

What do you think of such a prayer of complaint?

PRAYERS OF PETITION

In a petition we ask God for something for ourselves. On the basis of the following prayers of Scripture list some things we should pray for.

Solomon 1 Kg 3:5-10
1 Kg 8:27-53--

David Ps 144:9-15

Hezekiah Is 38:1-4
Is 37:14-20

Hannah 1 Sam 1:10-11

Can you list other prayers of this type?

What are other things we should pray for?

Read Jacob's prayer in Gen 28:20-22.

Is it proper to attach conditions to our prayers?

Should we "repay" something to God when our prayers are answered?

1 Sam 1:11, 1 Sam 7:12, Ps 116:12-14

Read David's prayer in Ps 69:22-28.

When is it proper to pray for judgment against our enemies?

Do you pray such prayers? Why or why not?

ARROW PRAYERS

Prayers do not need to be elaborate or prepared, but may be a sudden cry to God. Read Nehemiah 2:4-5, 1 Cor 16:22, and Genesis 21:17.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Intercessions are prayers in which we ask for God's blessings for someone else. Who should we pray for?

Co 1:9-13
Co 4:2-4
1 Ti 2:1-4
Job 1:5
1 Th 5:25
Mt 5:44

Name some famous intercessors:

ALL TYPES OF PRAYERS

What is the main element in the following prayers: praise, thanks, confession, prayer for guidance, petition or intercession?

Gen 18:22ff
Ex 15:1ff
Ex 32:11-14
1 Kg 17:21
1 Kg 18:36-37
Ps 7:1-2
Ps 9:1,2
Ps 13:1,2
Ps 18:1
Ps 22:1
Ps 57:1
Ps 61:1-4
Ps 63:1-4
Ps 79:1-4

Discussion: Are there any types of prayers that are inappropriate?

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Sessions 5 and 6: Sources of Prayer

What kind of prayers should we pray: prayers that we make up from our own thoughts and words or prayers from a book written by someone else? List some of the pros and cons of each type of prayer:

Our Own Prayers

Book Prayers

PSALMS

The outstanding source of "book prayers" is Psalms. Jesus himself used this book as a source of prayer. Two of his words on the cross were prayers from the psalms. Which ones?

Read the following verses. List an occasion for which they would be a good prayer.

Ps 4:8	Ps 34:8	Ps 103
Ps 13	Ps 39	Ps 115:1
Ps 19:14	Ps 46	Ps 116:1-4
Ps 22	Ps 57:1	Ps 119:97-106
Ps 25	Ps 61:1-4	Ps 119:97-106
Ps 26:8	Ps 71	Ps 121
Ps 27:1,7-10,13-14	Ps 94:1-2	Ps 127
Ps 31:5,14,15	Ps 95	Ps 128

Read Psalms 130-150 and list suitable prayers for these occasions:

Repentance-	Giving thanks-
Praise of God-	A meal prayer-
Entering church-	A church meeting-
Persecution-	An evening prayer-
The Fourth of July-	Other-

Write your own prayer for one of the above occasions:

PRAYER BOOKS

There is no one prayer book that can be recommended above all others. A good source of brief daily prayers is the last pages of *Meditations. He Hears My Voice* is a collection of prayers from *Meditations* (NPH, \$8.99). Probably the best all around prayer book is the old *Lutheran Book of Prayer* (CPH, 1951) but it is in "King-Jamesese" and is out of print. An updated

edition (1970) is now available from NPH for \$5.99. I prefer the original over the subsequent Concordia publication, *My Prayer Book* (1957,1980 \$6.99). *Luther's Prayers* sells for \$10.99. The 1994-1996 NPH catalog lists other prayer books on p 8-16. The CPH catalog lists items on p 3, 44, 136. *The Daily Office* (CPH 1965) is now out of print, but has been replaced by *Daily Prayer* (CPH, \$36.95, 2 vol). An very comprehensive book on the daily office is available from the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau.

THE HYMNAL: CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

After the Bible the hymnal is the best source for finding prayers. It has many features for finding good prayers and will be enhanced by the manuals being prepared to accompany it.

The Liturgies

Parts of the Sunday worship can be used as daily prayers. Using the Canticles and the proper prayers for the Sundays in home devotions is a good way to connect mid-week devotions to the Sunday worship. The orders of Morning and Evening Praise (p 45, p 52) and the General Devotion, Morning Devotion, Evening Devotion, Private Confession, and Preparation for Holy Communion (p 150-156) also provide a framework for home devotions.

The Psalms

The selected psalms (p 63-122) are arranged for antiphonal chanting or reading. There is an index listing fitting occasions for the individual psalms on p 62.

Prayers

For collections of prayers see worship prayers (pages 10-11), seasonal litanies (123-131), and personal prayers (134-139).

The Hymns

The hymns provide a good source of easily remembered prayers. Turn to the table of context on p 7 and 8 in front of the hymnal to find a list of the classifications of hymns. A first-line index begins on p 955. The manuals for the hymnal and the computer software *Hymnsoft* will also provide assistance in locating suitable prayers.

From the hymns find good prayers for the following:

Before and after a devotion:
Before and after Communion
Thanks for a blessing
Confession of a sin:
Sickness:
When death is near:
Wedding anniversary:
A child away from home:

Temptation:
Evening:
Morning:
Danger:
Missions:
Mourning a death:
Birth of a child:
4th of July:

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Session 7: Helps and Hindrances

There are conditions and forces both external and internal that can help or hinder us in our prayers. Before discussing the following lists, make your own list of helps and hindrances to prayer.

HELPS

- ** Special times set aside as individuals or as a group.
Read Dn 6:10, Ac 3:1, 10:9

Read Ps 119:164. How was this fulfilled in church history?
How might it be fulfilled today?
- ** Clear the mind and relax. Jesus often withdrew alone to a quiet place to pray (Luke 5:16).

What about going to church, to a shrine, or on a pilgrimage?
- ** Reading of Scripture and meditation: Dn 9:2-3.
What is the relationship between reading Scripture and prayer?

What is the difference between prayer and the means of grace?
- ** Self-examination of our own sins, needs, and weaknesses.
- ** Thinking about the needs of others. The newspapers, the Northwestern Lutheran, and the congregation's membership list are all good thought starters.
- ** Various postures: prostrate, kneeling, bowing the head, closing the eyes, folding the hands, outstretched hands, covering the head, uncovering the head, taking off shoes, etc.
- ** Bodily preparations:
What about fasting?
What about 1 Co 7:5?
- ** The Holy Spirit.. Read Romans 8:15, 26,27.
- ** Others--

HINDRANCES

** Impenitence: Is 1:15,
Is 59:12,
Prv 28:9,
Zech 7:11-13,
Ps 66:18

** An unforgiving spirit (family strife): 1 Peter 3:7,
Mt 18:35,
Mt 5:23-24,
1 Tim 2:8

**Pride: Lk 18:9-14

** Doubt: Ja 1:6-8,
Mt 17:17-20

Discuss: You must believe that you will receive what you pray for.

Is all questioning of God sinful doubt?

** Selfishness and wrong motivation: James 4:3

** Opposition of Satan:

** Lack of regular prayer: James 4:2

** Lack of time, busy-ness, worry, etc

** Distractions, recreation, TV, the Internet, etc.

** Vain repetition: Mt 6:5-7

** Other--

TO DO. List the things which you feel are the greatest hindrance to your prayer life and things which may be the greatest help in overcoming them. Take steps, with God's help, to overcome these hindrances.

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Sessions 8 and 9: The Lord's Prayer

Undoubtedly, the all-time favorite and most used prayer in history has been the Lord's Prayer, which Jesus taught in Mt 6:9-13 and Lk 11:2-4. Because we use this prayer so often, it is good for us to regularly re-examine its deep spiritual values so that we use it meaningfully. We will do this by reading each part of the prayer and Luther's explanation of it from the Catechism and then discussing each part.

The Address: Our father, who art in heaven

What is taught by the word "Father"?

the word "our"?

the words "who art in heaven"?

The 1st Petition: Hallowed be Thy name

List specific things we are asking for each time we pray this petition.

The 2nd Petition: Thy Kingdom come

The 3rd Petition: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

What specifically are we requesting in these petitions?

What is the significance of the words "on earth as it is in heaven"?

What is the common denominator of the first three petitions?

The 4th Petition: Give us this day our daily bread

What is daily bread?

How is Mt 6:25-34 a commentary on this petition?

What is the significance of the word "our"?

Why do we ask for daily bread before we ask for forgiveness?

The 5th Petition: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us

Read Mt 18:15-35. What is the relationship between God's forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of others?

The 6th Petition: And lead us not into temptation

What are the various meanings of "temptation"?

What is the relationship of God to temptation?

The 7th Petition: But deliver us from evil

Is this a separate petition from the 6th petition?

What is included in "evil"?

Why is this a fitting summary of the entire prayer?

The Doxology: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Why is this conclusion a significant addition to the prayer?

What does "amen" mean?

TO DO. As you pray the Lord's Prayer this week give special thought to one of the petitions each day and review it in the Catechism. For each petition answer the following questions:

- 1) What blessings are we seeking?
- 2) What evils are we seeking to escape?
- 3) What gifts are we thanking God for?
- 4) What sins do we need to confess?

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

The textual variants of the Lord's Prayer in Mt and Lk, with special attention to the doxology.

Exegesis of the Lord's Prayer in Greek with special attention to "abba" and "daily bread."

Evaluation of the new translations of the Lord's Prayer in Christian Worship and the NIV. Which should be used in the Catechism?

Do we overuse the Lord's Prayer? How can we guard against thoughtless use?

THE LORD'S PRAYER ACCORDING TO THE UBS TEXT

Matthew 6:9-13.

Luke 11:2-4

⁹ Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς,
¹⁰ ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου,
 ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου,
 γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου,
 ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς.
¹¹ Τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον
 δός ἡμῖν σήμερον
¹² καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν
 ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφήκαμεν
 τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν
¹³ καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς
 εἰς πειρασμόν,
 ἀλλὰ ῥύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

² Πάτερ,
 ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου
 ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου·
³ τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον
 δίδου ἡμῖν τὸ καθ' ἡμέραν·
⁴ καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰς ἀμαρτίας ἡμῶν,
 καὶ γὰρ αὐτοὶ ἀφίομεν
 παντὶ ὀφείλοντι ἡμῖν
 καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς
 εἰς πειρασμόν.

Variants

¹ 13 {A} πονηροῦ. & B D 0170 f¹ [847] it^a,aur,b,c,fl,h,l vg^{ww} cop^{bo} Tertullian Origen Cyprian Hilary Caesarius-Nazianzus Gregory-Nyssa Chromatius Augustine mss^{acc.} to Peter-Laodicea Maximus-Confessor // πονηροῦ. ἀμήν. 17 g^{cl} Cyril-Jerusalem // πονηροῦ, ὅτι σοῦ ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία καὶ ἡ δύναμις αἱ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας. ἀμήν. (see 1 Chr 29.11-13) K L W Δ Θ Π f^{1a} 3 33 (157 225 418 δόξα, τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος ἰς) 565 700 892 1009 1010 1071 1079 1195 1216 1230 1241 1242 1365 1546 1646 2148 αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. ἀμήν) 2174 Byz Lect it^{l(a)} (it^s syr^p omit ἀμήν) yr^{h,pal} cop^{bo,ms} goth arm eth geo Diatessaron Apostolic Constitutions Chrysostom // πονηροῦ ὅτι σοῦ ἐστὶν ἡ δύναμις εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. * // πονηροῦ ὅτι σοῦ ἐστὶν ἡ δύναμις καὶ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας. ἀμήν. x // πονηροῦ ὅτι σοῦ ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία καὶ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας. ἀμήν. syr^o // πονηροῦ ὅτι σοῦ ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία, τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας. ἀμήν. 1253

¹ 2 {A} πάτερ p⁷⁵ & B f¹ 700 it^{aur} vg syr^s Marcion Tertullian Origen Cyril // πάτερ ἡμῶν L arm // πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς (see Mt 6.9) A C D K P W X Δ Θ Π Ψ f^{1a} 28 565 892 1009 1010 1071 1079 1195 1216 1230 1241 1242 1253 1344 1365 (1546 ὑμῶν) 1646 2148 2174 Byz Lect l^{69a,m,185a,m,1127a,m} it^{(a),b,(c),d,e,f,(fl²),i,l,q,r¹} syr^{c,p,h} cop^{sa,bo} eth geo Diatessaron Origen

² 2 {B} ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου (see Mt 6.10) A B K L X Θ Π Ψ (& C P W Δ f^{1a} 1241 ἐλθάτω, p⁷⁵ uncertain ἐλθάτω/-θέτω) f¹ 28 33 (565 1253 omit σου) 892 1009 1010 1071 1079 1195 1216 1230 1242 1344 1365 1546 1646 2148 2174 Byz Lect l^{69a,m,185a,m,1127a,m} it^{a,aur,b,c,e,f,(fl²),i,l,q,r¹} vg syr^{c,s,p,h} cop^{sa,bo} arm geo^{l,b} Origen // ἐλθέτω τὸ πνεῦμα σου τὸ ἅγιον ἐφ' ἡμᾶς καὶ καθαρῶς ἡμᾶς (162) 700 Marcion Gregory-Nyssa (Maximus omit ἐφ' ἡμᾶς) // ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐλθέτω σου ἡ βασιλεία D it^d // omit geo^a

³ 2 {A} σου (see footnote 2) p⁷⁵ B L f¹ vg syr^{c,s} arm Marcion Tertullian Origen Augustine Cyril // σου γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου, it^a vg^{ms} cop^{sa,bo,ms} geo // σου γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. (see Mt 6.10) (& οὕτω καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς) & K X Π Ψ (& A C D P W Δ Θ 892 1079 1195 l¹⁸ omit τῆς) f^{1a} 28 33 (565 omit σου) 700 1009 1010 1071 1216 (1230 omit σου and τῆς) 1241 1242 1253 1344 1365 1546 1646 2148 2174 Byz Lect l^{69a,m,185a,m,1127a,m} (it^{aur,b,c,d,e,f,(fl²),i,l,q,r¹} syr^{p,h} cop^{bo} eth ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς or ἐπὶ γῆς) Diatessaron Titus-Bostra

⁴ 4 {A} πειρασμόν p⁷⁵ & B L f¹ 700 vg syr^s cop^{sa,bo} arm geo Marcion Tertullian Origen Augustine Cyril // πειρασμόν ἀλλὰ ῥύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ (see Mt 6.13) (& A C D K W X Δ Θ Π Ψ f^{1a} 28 33 565 892 1009 1010 1071 1079 1195 1216 1230 1241 1242 1253 1344 1365 (1546 ὑμᾶς) 1646 2148 2174 Byz Lect l^{69a,m,185a,m,1127a,m} it^{aur,b,c,d,e,f,(fl²),i,l,q,r¹} syr^{c,p,h} cop^{bo,ms} (eth) Diatessaron

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Sessions 10 and 11: Great Prayers of the Bible

In this session we would like to read and study another great prayer of Jesus, his High Priestly Prayer, spoken on Maundy Thursday. As we study this prayer we will review the principles of prayer which we have learned and see how Jesus put them into practice.

Read the entire prayer: John 17.

What features of this prayer are especially striking?
What makes an impression on you as you read it?

How does the occasion of this prayer add to its significance?

Reread v 1-5.

What elements of prayer predominate here?

Who is the focus of this section of the prayer?

How is v 3 appropriate to a prayer as well as to a sermon?

How is v 4 appropriate to a prayer? Doesn't God already know this?

Reread v 6-19.

What element of prayer is predominate here?

Who is the focus of this part of the prayer?

What specifically does Jesus request in v 11?

v 13?

v 15?

v 17?

Does this prayer limit Jesus' saving work to the elect?

In what sense was Jesus sanctified?

Reread v 20-25.

Who is the focus of this part of the prayer?

What two things does Jesus especially ask for?

Why are v 25-26 an appropriate conclusion?

Note parallels between this prayer and the Lord's Prayer:

Why might this prayer be called "the Lord's Prayer"?

TO DO Make a conscious effort to imitate Jesus' example of prayer, which has been called a "Copernican revolution" in prayer.

Read the Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55

Is it a prayer?

What does this prayer teach us about God?

What does it teach us about the woman who prayed it?

Read Daniel 9:1-19

What occasions this prayer?

What are the main emphases of this prayer?

What is the significance of the "we" of this prayer?

What is the response to this prayer? v 20 ff

Read Revelation 11:15-19 & 19:1-8.

What is the strong contrast in these prayers? What is the cause of praise?

How do these prayers differ from the prayer of Revelation 22:20? from the Lord's Prayer?

Other prayers:

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Session 12: Prayer and the Family

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

It is very important that husband and wife regularly pray for their family. Make a list of some of the important items which should have a place in their prayers.

PRAYER AS A FAMILY

"The family that prays together stays together" may be an oversimplification, but there is a great deal of truth in it. Prayer is a strong unifying force in the family, which brings them closer to God and to each other. How can the following be used as occasions for prayer?

Morning

Evening

Meals: meal prayer

an occasion for other prayers

Vacations

Holidays: Thanksgiving and New Year's

Anniversaries, birthdays

Discipline of a child

Strife

Benedictions

Other--

TEACHING PRAYER IN THE FAMILY

- 1.) Children need to enjoy a fatherly relationship with God.
How can this be developed and strengthened?
- 2.) Children need to develop trust in the power of prayer.
Point out its results.
- 3.) Children must learn that God answers "according to his will."
How will you deal with prayers that seemingly are not answered?
- 4.) Children need to memorize meaningfully. How will you develop this?
- 5.) Prayers should be prayed not performed. What is the difference? How will you teach this?
- 6.) Children need help and practice learning to write their own prayers and to offer their own prayers *ex corde*. What are some ways to do this?
- 7.) How can children learn through an active part in devotions?
- 8.) How can children be involved in planning for prayer?
- 9.) What visual aids can you use for children's prayers?

TO DO Make plans for a fuller family prayer life, by making lists and by using a prayer calendar. Consider the special needs of your own family.

Return to the lesson on hindrances and helps and note ones which seem especially applicable to your family.

Special Family Sources: *Wellspring* magazine, Children's prayer books (NPH p 8-12).

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Session 13: Prayer and the Pastor

How much time do you devote specifically to prayer each day?
How much time do you think you should devote to prayer each day?

What does Acts 6:4 have to say about a pastor's priorities?

How do Jesus, Paul, and Luther give an example of pastoral priorities?

Are the helps and hindrances to pastoral prayer any different than those we discussed in Session 7?

How can we grow in prayer for ourselves?

for brother pastors?

for the congregation?

for the church in the world?

for the world?

How can we find the time for prayer and a devotional life?.

Discuss: Pastors are too busy with meetings and projects.

Growing in prayer means spending more time in prayer.

Lutherans are deep theological thinkers and shallow pray-ers.

The New Testament emphasizes pastoral prayer, not pastoral management skills or organizational talents.

Seminaries train men to preach and to teach, but not to pray.

The Principles and Practice of Prayer

Session 14: Prayer in the Church and School

How often do you ask the congregation to pray for you?
How can you encourage the congregation to pray for you?

How can we foster prayer in the congregation through:

A Bible Class

The Liturgy

Sermons

The bulletin or newsletter

Bible information class

Sunday School

VBS

Confirmation Class

Meetings of organizations

Council, congregational, and committee meetings

Other--

Discuss: The prime responsibility for teaching prayer in the Lutheran elementary school rests with the teachers.

How do the scriptural principles of the roles of men and women affect our promoting of prayer in teachers' meetings, in the youth group and high schools, in colleges and in the church?

Should we discourage prayer meetings in our congregations? Why? Why not?
Should we encourage prayer meetings in our congregations? Why? Why not?

How should our worker training schools help students grow in prayer?

The Principles and Practice of Prayer

Session 15: Optional

Possible Topics: Continuation of Sessions 13 and 14
Prayer Fellowship
School Prayer
Prayer in the World Religions

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Prayer Power: A Self-analysis

LELAND FREDERICK

1. How much time did you spend in prayer?

- a. Since Sunday morning _____
- b. Yesterday _____

2. Who was the object of your prayers?

Mark (X)

- a. Yourself _____
- b. A friend or friends _____
- c. An acquaintance, but not a close friend _____
- d. A family member _____
- e. An unsaved person or family _____
- f. An individual member or members of the church family _____
- g. All members of the church assembly—by name _____
- h. Church dropouts or infrequent attenders _____
- i. A Sunday school teacher _____
- j. A Sunday school child _____
- k. A Sunday school class _____
- l. A youth group leader _____
- m. The congregation—collectively _____
- n. The church board _____
- o. A board member _____
- p. A church committee _____
- q. Individual committee members _____
- r. Individual church officers _____
- s. The pastor _____
- t. A missionary _____
- u. President Reagan and/or the Congress _____
- v. The world scene _____
- w. Local government officials _____
- x. Other _____

3. What was the purpose of your prayers?

- a. Confession of sin _____
- b. A concern for someone outside the body of Christ _____
- c. A concern for someone in the church family _____
- d. Pastoral support _____
- e. A personal need _____
- f. A desire to know Christ more completely _____
- g. A desire to be used of God _____
- h. A desire to know the deep things of God (things you have not experienced at his hand and know nothing about) _____

- i. A family matter _____
- j. Thankfulness—for whatever reason _____
- k. A need in the church: (spiritual growth, greater faithfulness in attendance at worship services, a greater witness) _____
- l. More meaningful and uplifting worship services _____
- m. More meaningful and uplifting Bible study classes _____
- n. More meaningful youth programs _____
- o. Other _____

4. For help in answering the following questions, study what is commonly referred to as the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 5:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4.

- a. Why should we pray? Make a list of reasons.
- b. What should come first in our prayer?
- c. What is our position in relationship to God in prayer?
- d. What should be the ultimate goal of all of the prayers of all the saints?
- e. What is our purpose here on earth as far as our heavenly Father is concerned?
- f. If there is a proper order to prayer, when in our prayers should we tell the Father of our needs?

5. Take a night or two of family devotional time centered around these verses. Pray for enlightenment and insight into what God is saying in these portions of his Word.

6. Make a list of the things you feel are necessary in our approach to God, and in the order and the attitude of our prayer.

7. Is there a best time to pray?

8. How much time should be spent in prayer?

9. Do you feel you have as much "power in prayer" as you would like to have?

