

# PARENT GUIDE

## Week 23—The Lord's Prayer

This week, our middle schoolers explored the second half of the Lord's Prayer in their small groups. This section of the prayer invites students to think about their daily needs, relationships, choices, and how God helps them through life's struggles.

### What We Covered

In this lesson, students studied the second half of the Lord's Prayer, which focuses on our daily needs and God's grace:

- **“Give us this day our daily bread”** – God provides for our physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.
- **“Forgive us... as we forgive”** – God's forgiveness is for us and a model for how we treat others.
- **“Lead us not into temptation... deliver us from evil”** – God strengthens and protects us from sin and the enemy.

### Why We Talked About It

Middle schoolers are starting to ask deeper questions about needs vs. wants, fairness, forgiveness, and the struggle to do what's right. These lines from the Lord's Prayer directly address those issues, showing that:

- God is a daily provider.
- Forgiveness is essential but often difficult.
- Temptation is real, but God is always near and faithful.

### Catechism Points

- **Focused on the fourth through seventh petitions.**
- **Justification & Sanctification**
  - Justification: God declares us righteous through faith in Jesus.
  - Sanctification: The Holy Spirit helps us grow in holy living, resisting temptation, and loving others.

## What You Can Do

- **Talk About Needs vs. Wants** – Ask your child: “What’s something you want that isn’t truly a need?” Then share how God meets even deeper needs like peace, love, and belonging.
- **Model Forgiveness** – Talk about how your family handles forgiveness. Reflect together on times when it's been hard and why it's still important.
- **Name Temptations** – Help your child identify common temptations and what “a way out” might look like.
- **Pray the Full Lord’s Prayer Together** – build a habit of being people of prayer.

## Family Time Prompt

**Monday or Tuesday:** Write down or pray about one *real need* in your life (physical, emotional, or spiritual). Ask God to meet it—and look for how He might be answering.

**Wednesday or Thursday:** Think of someone who’s hurt or annoyed you recently. Choose to forgive them—either silently in prayer, or in person if it’s appropriate.

**Friday or Saturday:** Identify one temptation you face (like gossip, anger, lying, etc.) and ask God for help to take a “way out” the next time it pops up.

**Sunday:** On the way to church, reflect on a time this week when you felt challenged or down. Thank God for His protection and celebrate the victory of Jesus over sin and fear.