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## Family Service

**The Lord's Prayer** by Ben S.

### **Matthew 6:9-13**

Welcome to everyone. And welcome children. Today we are going to be thinking about prayer. Do you ever pray? All around the world in different countries you will find people who pray. Why do you think people pray? What sort of things do we say to God? Brilliant Mat, we say thank you. Sometimes we have a brilliant day and we want to say thank you to someone. Yes, we say sorry to God. Human beings mess up. We have this spiritual need in our hearts to say, 'God, I'm sorry'. He takes the burden of guilt away and we are free. Anything else? Yes, Tom, we ask for help. Sometimes we get stuck or we want to do something we know is wrong. We pray to God to ask for help. Really good answers guys. Sometime we look out at the stars and we ask. 'are we really alone?' We cry out to God because he is there. We pray because we can't help it. At the lower end we just call out hoping there is someone out there who will listen. Prayer can be a bit like a spare tyre. We don't think about it until we need it. The higher end is when we have an honest conversation with the God who we know listens and is so close to us. For most of us we are somewhere in between. Sometimes prayer is hard work but sometimes it can be very sweet.

Children, one day Jesus was praying. He had this amazing relationship with God. His disciples were with him, listening and thinking wow! They said, 'Jesus teach us to pray'. Jesus taught them the Lord's Prayer. We are going to read Matthew 6:5-15. "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Jesus said when you pray don't put on a show like the hypocrites who are not genuine in their prayers. He said close the door and don't babble magic words like the pagans to get God's attention. Jesus said when you pray call out to your Father- Abba, daddy. "This then, is how you should pray, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

When I was your age in school we used to say the Lord's Prayer together. It wasn't very interesting and it wasn't very meaningful. I didn't understand what I was saying. I want to help you understand the Lord's Prayer and to learn it by heart. When Jesus gave us this prayer he was giving us a foundation and a framework for our prayers just like a builder puts up a framework for a building and then fills in the walls and windows, the floors and the roof. Each phrase is like a girder. We are meant to fill in all the gaps with our own prayers; something Christians have always done. We amplify (J. I. Packer), or branch off the tree trunk of the Lord's Prayer, (The Puritans) or festoon and decorate the Lord's Prayer with our own prayers. (C.S. Lewis) Tim Keller talks about 'riffing' off the Lord's Prayer. Thomas is learning to play the guitar. He has to learn the scales. Later he will be able to riff off the basic structure which is what we do when we pray around the structure of the Lord's Prayer. *[In music, a riff is a repeated sequence of notes or chords that appears in a piece of music. A guitar riff is often catchy and helps give structure and character to a piece*

of music.] We learn the structure and that helps us learn what to say to God.



I have some props to help us learn each phrase. This is a photo album, a family picture book. It reminds us that we are talking to Our Father in heaven and we become part of his family when we ask God to forgive our sin. We come like a child who comes to a good dad who loves us. Like some of you I didn't have a good relationship with my earthly dad. We never really had a conversation where we said that we loved t each other. We can bring that into our conversations with God. That best earthly dads show us a little bit of what our heavenly God is like and the worst dads show us what God is not like. God can heal you when you experience that kind of relationship with your earthly dad.



Second prop: This is a Pokémon card. The rarest Pokémon card the Shadowless Charizard is worth \$300,000. If you had one you would treat that card carefully as if it is hallowed. God is so much more valuable and rare than a Pokémon card. He is hallowed because he is so precious.



Third prop: 'Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.' Everything Jesus did with all his power was for other people's benefit. Jesus died for our sin and rose again. He went to heaven and will return to rule the earth in righteousness.



Fourth prop: 'Give us this day our daily bread' Jesus tells us to pray for our needs, not for our luxuries, not our big wants. 'Our' means we are to pray for the needs of the world.



Fifth prop: (bank statement) 'Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.' God loves to cancel our debt because he is so generous. If we wish harm to others when we pray the Lord's Prayer we are asking God to treat us the same way we treat others.



Sixth prop: (Shackles & chains) 'Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.' Sin promises us so much happiness but in the end it enslaves us. Ask God for strength to live wise and loving lives.