



STUDY GUIDE

# Rediscovering The Lord's Prayer

A COMPANION TO THE PODCAST

**Timeless  
Truth** with Pastor Jim Thomas

A RESOURCE OF THE VILLAGE CHAPEL

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## STUDY NO. 1

# Does Prayer Work?

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Does prayer actually work? Does the Creator of the universe really hear us, and if so, what difference do our prayers make? In this study, Pastor Jim Thomas reminds us that prayer isn't about impressing God with lofty language. It's about communion. When we don't know what to say, Jesus has gracefully given us a model to rely on: 66 words that can realign our hearts with God.

As we begin to unpack each line of The Lord's Prayer, we notice the opening section is all about God and it tells us that God is personal, God is preeminent, and God is powerful.

## Study No. 1: Does Prayer Work?

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 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. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.”

**MATTHEW 6:5-15**

“The Lord’s Prayer may be the single set of words spoken more often than any other in the history of the world... The Lord’s Prayer must stamp itself on our prayers, shaping them all the way down.”

**TIM KELLER**  
*Prayer*

“In short, the Lord’s Prayer encapsulates key themes such as worship, submission to God’s will, dependence on divine provision, forgiveness, and spiritual protection. It models for us how to approach God in prayer and how to get our hearts aligned with His purposes.”

**HOWARD CULBERTSON**

“Prayer is indeed our lifeline to God. It’s the way we communicate with God and hopefully the way that we commune with God.”

**PASTOR JIM THOMAS**

## Study No. 1: Does Prayer Work?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever experienced a season of drift or being “spiritually dull”? What specific “noise and distractions” tend to drown out God’s voice in your life?
2. The Lord’s Prayer spends its entire first section focusing on God’s Name, Kingdom, and will before mentioning any human needs. How does this structural reality challenge or reshape the way you typically approach your own personal prayer time?
3. Pastor Jim’s mother practiced a daily habit of reciting Psalm 23 and the Lord’s Prayer before her feet hit the floor. What kind of spiritual shift might happen in your own week if you committed to reminding yourself daily that God is both your Shepherd and your Heavenly Father?
4. Reflecting on Howard Culbertson’s quote, the Lord’s Prayer encapsulates themes like submission, dependence, and spiritual protection. Which of these areas do you find easiest to bring to God, and which one requires the most intentional growth for you right now?
5. We read that Jesus’ disciples asked Him to teach them to pray after overhearing Him on multiple occasions. Who in your life has modeled a faithful prayer life for you, and what did you learn simply by observing them?

## STUDY NO. 2

# Is God Our Father?

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What does it truly mean to address the Almighty Creator as “Our Father”? In this study on the *Timeless Truth* podcast, Pastor Jim Thomas unpacks the relational and communal implications packed into the first two words of the Lord’s Prayer. By examining why Jesus speaks entirely in the plural and exploring the biblical theme of spiritual adoption, this study challenges modern isolation and redeems our understanding of fatherhood. Discover the good Father who knows you completely, loves you faithfully, and welcomes you into the fellowship of His people.

## Study No. 2: Is God Our Father?

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

*Read Matthew 6:5*

**“Our”:** You may or may not have noticed this before but this entire prayer is stated in the plural! OUR Father, Give US this day OUR daily bread, forgive US OUR debts as WE forgive OUR debtors, do not lead US into temptation but deliver US from evil. It’s all in the plural! What does that tell us? How can that impact our view of God, of ourselves and others, as we approach God through The Lord’s Prayer?

We are never alone because we belong to Christ and we also belong to everyone else who belongs to Christ! We say “Our” because it means something really significant.

**“The Lord’s prayer begins with ‘our’ because when we pray as Christians, we are united as one in Christ.”**

PASTOR JIM THOMAS

**“Father”:** For Christians, prayer is not merely sending our “thoughts” or our “best wishes.” When we pray “Our Father” we are approaching Someone.

And addressing God as “our Father” also reminds us of who we are. When we place our faith in Christ, we become the sons and daughters of the living God.

“What is a Christian? The richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as Father.”

J. I. PACKER

## Study No. 2: Is God Our Father?

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“When Jesus gave His followers the Lord’s Prayer, He was sharing His own prayer life with them, inviting them to step into His own ongoing relationship with the Father.”

**N. T. WRIGHT**

“To call God Father enhances everything you do in prayer. If you don’t know that God is your Father, it flattens and reduces and thins out every prayer.”

**TIM KELLER**

“Prayer is addressed to God the Father, in the name of Jesus, with the help of the Holy Spirit. The triune God commands us to pray, helps us to pray, and hears and answers our prayers.”

**BRIAN G. NAJAPFOUR**

*Taking Hold of God: Reformed and Puritan Perspectives on Prayer*

## Study No. 2: Is God Our Father?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the beginning of the study, Pastor Jim shares that the entire Lord's Prayer is written in the plural form (our, us, we) rather than the singular form (my, me, I). Why do you think Jesus wants us to think about other people, and not just ourselves, when we talk to God?
2. How does it make you feel to know that when you pray the Lord's Prayer, the exact same words that millions of other Christians have said for thousands of years, you are joining a massive, worldwide family tradition?
3. What is the difference between talking to an impersonal *force* versus talking to *someone*?
4. Pastor Jim describes our Heavenly Father as a "good, good Father" who knows our fears and failures, and still loves us perfectly. What are some everyday ways a good parent cares for their child, and how does God do those same things for you?
5. We learned that Jesus refers to God as "Father" twelve times in chapter 6 of Matthew. If you really believed throughout your day that the Creator of the universe is your close, loving Father, how might that change how you handle a scary or stressful situation?

## STUDY NO. 3

# Who Art in Heaven

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When we pray “Our Father, who art in heaven,” what does the phrase “in heaven” reveal about God? In this study, Pastor Jim Thomas breaks through our modern over-familiarity with the Lord’s Prayer to examine the magnificent paradox of God’s character.

Unpacking three distinct realities, God’s unique perspective, unalloyed purity, and sovereign power, this study reveals how a right understanding of heaven changes the way we see reality on earth. Learn why entering into a relationship with a transcendent, cosmic King is the ultimate antidote to a restless heart.

## Study No. 3: Who Art in Heaven

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

*Read Matthew 6:9*

So, what might it mean to say that Our Father God is “in heaven?” Just what or where IS heaven? Is it up in the sky, somewhere like a black hole in outer space? Is heaven even a “place” at all, a singular location or, is heaven a reference to a spiritual realm where God’s presence is? And how can the God who is our Father in heaven, hear the prayers we say here on earth?

Perhaps even more importantly, can this God who is in heaven take action from that heavenly realm, action that in some way makes a difference in the earthly realm we all live in?

“...Who art in heaven” God’s perspective, God’s proximity, God’s unalloyed purity, and God’s sovereign power.

“To say God is, ‘in heaven’ argues that God is transcendent. He is not limited to the same view, in the same realm, the same spacetime continuum that we operate in.”

PASTOR JIM THOMAS

“The God whom we have been taught by Jesus to address as ‘Our Father’ is the One who rules the whole cosmos, who speaks in earthquake, wind and fire. Any less of a god wouldn’t do us much good.”

**WILLIAM H. WILLIMON & STANLEY HAUERWAS**

*Lord, Teach Us: The Lord’s Prayer & the Christian Life*

## Study No. 3: Who Art in Heaven

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“In the biblical God, transcendence and immanence are not opposites but complementary aspects of the divine nature and character. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer says, ‘God is the beyond in the midst of our lives.’”

**CHRISTOPHER WATKIN**

*Biblical Critical Theory: How the Bible's Unfolding Story Makes Sense of Modern Life and Culture*

“Because we call God the Father who is ‘in heaven,’ we are bold to pray for such absurdly extravagant gifts as bread for the world, peace among the nations, healed marriages, cured cancer, rain. We are bold to pray for such gifts because we pray to the Father in heaven, the One who rules.”

**WILLIAM H. WILLIMON & STANLEY HAUERWAS**

*Lord, Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer & the Christian Life*

## Study No. 3: Who Art in Heaven

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If familiarity with the Lord's Prayer can breed a kind of "indifference", what are some specific ways you can intentionally slow down your prayer life this week to fight against that habit?
2. How does replacing the idea of heaven as a "finite zip code in outer space" with the reality of a "spiritual realm of God's fullest presence" alter the way you imagine God listening to you?
3. Read Psalm 139:7–12. How does the truth that "darkness and light are alike" to God bring comfort when you are navigating a deeply painful or confusing earthly circumstance?
4. Why is a biblical understanding of God's absolute power described as a "safeguard" against our attempts to domesticate Him or force His will to align with our preferences?
5. Are your prayers currently reflective of a small, manageable god, or God the Father who rules the whole cosmos?

## STUDY NO. 4

# Longing for More

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Why does a persistent feeling of emptiness and meaninglessness dominate so much of modern life? In this study, Pastor Jim Thomas journeys into the first petition of The Lord's Prayer: "Hallowed be Thy name." We explore what it means to treat God's character as holy, set apart, and worthy of honor.

Drawing insights from A. W. Tozer, Justin Brierley, and Tish Harrison Warren, Pastor Jim invites us to step out of spiritual boredom and learn how to "surf the teeming waves of wonder" in an enchanted cosmos ruled by the great "I AM."

## Study No. 4: Longing For More

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

*Read Matthew 6:9*

Some have dismissed the idea of anything transcendent or higher than humanity. Because of this many folks have sagged into a kind of spiritual ennui, and become almost entirely disenchanted. I believe it is this loss of wonder that has led to a prevailing meaninglessness in our time.

“Embrace mystery, expect the supernatural, and keep Christianity weird.”

**JUSTIN BRIERLEY**

*The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God*

This idea of “hallowing” something—viewing it as unique and worthy of deep respect—captures the essence of what we ask for when we pray, “Hallowed be Thy name.”

“To call God’s name hallowed means to treat it as holy, to revere and consecrate it, to set it apart as sacred.”

**PASTOR JIM THOMAS**

“What comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

**A. W. TOZER**

*The Knowledge of the Holy*

## Study No. 4: Longing For More

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“Hallowed be Thy name” is both an act of worship and an invitation for God to shine in and through us. When we pray, “Hallowed be Thy name,” we’re offering all of who we are in this moment, this day and the rest of our lives in service to God’s glory. And we’re committing ourselves to live in ways that bring honor to God.

“It should be a priority for the church and for every individual Christian to make sure that the way in which we speak of God is a way that communicates respect, awe, adoration, and reverence. How we use the name of God reveals more clearly than any creed we ever confess our deepest attitudes towards the God of the sacred name.”

**R. C. SPROUL**

“If we do not embrace an enchanted cosmos – the weird stuff – we miss the fullness of reality, the fullness of God, and we will never be able to embrace the mystery of our own lives, our tangled questions that will not find answers. To endure a mystery, we have to learn to surf the teeming waves of wonder.”

**TISH HARRISON WARREN**

*Prayer in the Night*

## Study No. 4: Longing For More

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Jim notes that many people experience a “loss of wonder” that directly causes a prevailing sense of meaninglessness in modern life. In what areas of your life have you felt a sense of spiritual flatness or routine boredom lately?
2. Ecclesiastes teaches us that God has placed “eternity in our hearts.” How does this design explain why chasing finite things, like financial success, social media attention, or career milestones, always leaves us feeling empty?
3. If how we use God’s name reveals our deepest attitudes toward Him, how does this challenge the way you talk about or represent God in everyday conversations or online?
4. God revealed His personal name to Moses as “I AM,” indicating His eternal, unchanging self-sufficiency. How does resting in the “I AM” help you release the exhausting pressure of trying to control your own future?
5. Tish Harrison Warren wrote that to endure life’s unanswerable questions, we must learn to “surf the teeming waves of wonder.” What is one practical step you can take this week to move your prayer life from a list of demands to an active posture of adoration and awe?

## STUDY NO. 5

# Thy Kingdom Come

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What was Jesus talking about when He taught His disciples to pray, “Thy kingdom come”, and was it anything on earth at all? In this study, Pastor Jim Thomas explores the true nature of God’s Kingdom as the dynamic rule and reign of King Jesus. Moving past political definitions and geographic borders, we examine how the primary purpose of prayer is to align our hearts with God’s purposes rather than demanding our own way.

Discover what it means to walk with Christ and learn how to make God’s invisible Kingdom wonderfully visible to the watching world around you.

## Study No. 5: Thy Kingdom Come

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as Head above all.”

**1 CHRONICLES 29:11**

As members of the Kingdom of God, we recognize the supremacy of Christ in all things and we worship Jesus as nothing less than our sovereign and King. And it is our heart’s desire to submit to Him in every area of our lives.

“The primary purpose of prayer is not to bend God’s will to our desires, but to align our hearts with His purposes.”

**PASTOR JIM THOMAS**

“Jesus’ good news, then, was that the Kingdom of God had come, and that He, Jesus, was its herald and expounder to men. More than that, in some special and mysterious way, He was the kingdom.”

**MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE**

*Jesus: The Man Who Lives*

“In Christ we are given a heavenly passport; in His body we learn how to live like locals of His kingdom.”

**JAMES K. A. SMITH**

*You Are What You Love*

## Study No. 5: Thy Kingdom Come

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

To pray ‘Thy kingdom come’ is to seek to align all of who we are with God’s honor, God’s will, God’s plans and purposes. As subjects in God’s kingdom we bow before our King in every way.

“As Jesus’ disciple, I am His apprentice in kingdom living. I am learning from Him how to lead my life in the Kingdom of the Heavens as He would lead my life if He were I. It is my faith in Him that led me to become His disciple. My confidence in Him simply means that I believe that He is right about everything: that all that He is and says shows what life is at its best, what it was intended by God to be. ‘In Him was life and the life was the light of men’ (John 1:4 NAS).”

**DALLAS WILLARD**

*How Does the Disciple Live?*

“The task of the church is to make the invisible kingdom visible.”

**J. I. PACKER**

## Study No. 5: Thy Kingdom Come

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you audit your recent prayers, do they look more like a checklist of things you want God to do for you, or a surrender to what He wants to do in and through you?
2. We learned that the Kingdom of God isn't a geographic location with borders or a flag, but rather "wherever the King's rule is recognized and His will is done." What is one area of your life (e.g., finances, relationships, thought life) where you are currently struggling to recognize His absolute rule?
3. What does it look like "to make the invisible kingdom visible", to make God's love, justice, and peace visible to someone in your life this week?
4. In a highly polarized world where people place their hope in earthly political kingdoms, how does praying "Thy kingdom come" anchor your soul and protect you from cultural anxiety or anger?
5. Pastor Jim prays that God's Kingdom would come specifically in "the way we think about our work and the things that we create today." How does viewing your everyday job or creative projects as an expression of God's Kingdom completely change the value of your daily routine?
6. How does spending time studying Jesus' life in the Gospels clarify the way we should act as citizens of His Kingdom?

## STUDY NO. 6

# Thy Will Be Done

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When we pray “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” are we simply resigning ourselves to fate, or is Jesus inviting us into something much deeper? Pastor Jim Thomas unpacks the beauty and liberation found in surrendering our personal agendas to the wisdom of God.

This study highlights how aligning our desires with God’s Word is an act of active trust that brings profound peace and assurance. Discover how surrendering your will to God leads to the joy and peace of trusting your Heavenly Father.

## Study No. 6: Thy Will Be Done

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“We are seeing the necessary balance of two purposes of petitionary prayer—to put the world right (‘thy kingdom come’) and to align our hearts with God (‘thy will be done’).”

**TIM KELLER**

*Prayer*

“Prayer is not a convenient device for imposing our will upon God, or for bending His will to ours, but the prescribed way of subordinating our will to His. It is by prayer that we seek God’s will, embrace it, and align ourselves with it. Every true prayer is a variation on the theme: ‘Your will be done.’”

**JOHN STOTT**

*The Letters of John*

Prayer is one of the best means to gaining God’s perspective. And prayers informed by God’s Word lead us to pray in accord with God’s will.

“When we pray ‘Thy will be done’, we’re not expressing some sort of cold resignation to fate... instead, we’re actively expressing our trust in God’s goodness, in His wisdom, and in His love.”

**PASTOR JIM THOMAS**

## Study No. 6: Thy Will Be Done

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“Too often, we are conditioned to think of prayer as asking God for what we want—dear God, give me this, give me that. But now, in praying that God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven, we are attempting to school ourselves to want what God wants.”

**WILLIAM H. WILLIMON & STANLEY HAUERWAS**

*Lord, Teach Us: The Lord’s Prayer & the Christian Life*

“The center of God’s will may be for us the very eye of the storm.”

**ALISTAIR BEGG**

“Prayer in Jesus’ name is lifelong training in taking God’s will a little more seriously and our own will a little less so.”

**WILLIAM H. WILLIMON & STANLEY HAUERWAS**

*Lord, Teach Us: The Lord’s Prayer & the Christian Life*

## Study No. 6: Thy Will Be Done

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever caught yourself treating God's will like an unchangeable, cold fate rather than the path of a loving Father? How does that impact the way you pray?
2. How does shifting your perspective from "earning points with God" to "delighting Him" change the way you view the commands we read in Scripture?
3. What is one specific area of life right now where we can take "God's will a little more seriously, and our own will a little less so" ?
4. Pastor Jim prays for us to find "peace and assurance that comes from submitting to God's wisdom, will, and ways." Can you share a time in your life when surrendering control of a situation actually led to an unexpected sense of internal peace?

## STUDY NO. 7

# Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

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As the Lord's Prayer shifts focus to our human concerns, Jesus begins in the present tense with our most basic material necessities: "Give us this day our daily bread." In this study on the *Timeless Truth* podcast, Pastor Jim Thomas unpacks the deep spiritual invitation hidden within this familiar request.

This study challenges our modern obsession with "stockpiling our greeds" and invites us into a freeing, day-by-day reliance on the Bread of Life. Learn how lifting up the "empty hands of faith" transforms our anxiety into peace and prepares us to be conduits of God's blessing to a hungry world.

## Study No. 7: Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.”

**MARTIN LUTHER**  
*Small Catechism*

“No one celebrates the presence and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ more than the person who has embraced his desperate and daily need of it.”

**PAUL TRIPP**  
*Dangerous Calling*

“Some people think that God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The only way to trouble God is not to come at all. He encourages us to come to Him repeatedly, and press our claims.”

**D. L. MOODY**

“No matter what our station in life is, no matter how little we may have or how much we may have, no matter what we’ve accumulated or what we’ve accomplished, we’re always needy before God and upon God.”

**PASTOR JIM THOMAS**

## Study No. 7: Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

– PHILIPPIANS 4:19

“Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. He is neither ignorant, so that we need to instruct Him, nor hesitant, so that we need to persuade Him. He is our Father — a Father who loves His children and knows all about their needs.”

JOHN STOTT

*The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*

## Study No. 7: Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus structured the prayer to center entirely on God's holiness and Kingdom before focusing on personal desires and needs?
2. The petition specifies daily bread rather than a monthly or yearly guarantee. Why is it spiritually healthier for us to depend on God day by day, rather than having a guaranteed stockpile for the future?
3. In our current culture, how can we discern the line between an honest, basic need and a greed that we are trying to hoard?
4. The prayer says "give us our daily bread" rather than give me my daily bread. How does praying in the plural encourage us to look out for the material and physical needs of our neighbors, rather than just our own?
5. At the close of his prayer, Pastor Jim asks that our "first inclination will be to turn to God, to lift up the empty hands of faith." When you face a sudden shortage, whether financial, emotional, or physical, what is typically your first inclination? How can you practice turning to Him first this week?

## STUDY NO. 8

# Forgiveness

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Someone once noted that forgiveness is both humanity's deepest need and highest achievement. Pastor Jim Thomas explores the profound vertical and horizontal dynamics of the fifth petition in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Learn how resting in God's certain grace empowers us at the daily crossroads of life to choose the path of reconciliation and lay down the exhausting weight of unforgiveness.

## Study No. 8: Forgiveness

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. This is the only conditional petition Jesus taught us to pray...Forgive us AS WE forgive others.

“Before there is any talk in the prayer about our forgiving anyone else, we are made to ask for forgiveness ourselves. Before there is any consideration of the wrongs that we have suffered, we are made to ponder the great wrong God has suffered through us.”

**WILLIAM H. WILLIMON & STANLEY HAUERWAS**

*Lord, Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer & the Christian Life*

How much has God forgiven me?  
Every sin. How often has God forgiven me? Every single time I confess my sin, God has promised He is faithful and just to forgive my sin AND to cleanse me from all unrighteousness!

“What we call asking God's forgiveness very often really consists in asking God to accept our excuses...What we have got to take to Him is the inexcusable bit, the sin... As regards my own sins it is a safe bet (though not a certainty) that the excuses are not really so good as I think: as regards other men's sins against me it is a safe bet (though not a certainty) that the excuses are better than I think.”

**C. S. LEWIS**

*The Weight of Glory*

“Throughout our lives, we will repeatedly come to the crossroads of forgiveness and unforgiveness. The question is, which road will we choose?”

**PASTOR JIM THOMAS**

## Study No. 8: Forgiveness

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

The great news of the Christian faith is that the worst of our past, the darkest, most embarrassing, shameful things we have ever done can all be forgiven right now because God, in the finished work of Christ on the Cross, has already, once and for all time, paid the price for our sins. You see, the more we understand how great a forgiveness we need and have received, the more generous we become with forgiving others..

“To knife through our pretense, cowardice, and evasions, to see the truth about ourselves and the true state of our souls before God—this requires enormous courage and ruthless trust in the merciful love of the redeeming God. Put simply, sin must be acknowledged and confessed before there can be forgiveness and real transformation.”

**BRENNAN MANNING**

*Ruthless Trust*

“Unforgiving people have not been forgiven themselves; those who are forgiven are so broken by it that they cannot but forgive others. They are children of God, and they act like God.”

**MARTYN LLOYD-JONES**

*Life in Christ: Studies in 1 John*

Our Father in heaven wants all of His children to have hearts that look like His: hearts overflowing with grace, mercy and forgiveness. This is actually nurturing good health for our human souls. We simply are not wired to hold onto bitterness, anger and grievances. It will burn us up like a combustion engine with no oil to grease its gears.

## Study No. 8: Forgiveness

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“Not forgiving someone is like drinking rat poison and waiting for the rat to die.”

**ANN LAMONT**

Unforgiveness is the choice to define someone else by their sins against you. You would not want anyone to do that to you, would you?

“Once our eyes have been opened to see the enormity of our offense against God, the injuries which others have done to us appear by comparison extremely trifling. If, on the other hand, we have an exaggerated view of the offenses of others, it proves that we have minimized our own”

**JOHN STOTT**

“Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.”

*Confession, Book of Common Prayer:*

## Study No. 8: Forgiveness

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is receiving forgiveness from God our absolute deepest need, and why is extending it to others considered our highest achievement?
2. Reflecting on the confession from the Book of Common Prayer, we confess that we have sinned both in “those things which we ought to have done” and “those things which we ought not to have done.” How does recognizing our “sins of omission” (the good we failed to do) deepen our appreciation for God’s mercy?
3. Pastor Jim describes a “crossroads of forgiveness and unforgiveness” that we encounter throughout our lives. Describe a recent time that you were tempted to choose the road of bitterness instead of forgiveness.
4. Is there a specific relationship in your life right now where you need to take that first courageous step of making a call or sending a note of reconciliation?
5. Read 1 John 1:9. How does the absolute certainty that God is “faithful and just to forgive us” give us the security required to drop our defenses and extend grace to those who have sinned against us?

## STUDY NO. 9

# Is Temptation Avoidable?

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Church history has long regarded the Lord's Prayer as a complete "body of divinity" and a perfect summary of the Gospel message. Pastor Jim Thomas dives into the protective custody of the sixth petition: "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Challenging our daily vulnerabilities with pastoral warmth, Pastor Jim highlights how the Holy Spirit warns, guides, and strengthens us to navigate a broken world. Discover the immense comfort of turning to a Savior who understands our struggles intimately, offering us the exact grace we need to resist or flee when testing comes our way.

## Study No. 9: Is Temptation Avoidable?

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

Here, we voice our need for providential protection from those things that so easily beguile us in this broken world. And Jesus teaches us to pray: “Lead us not into temptation.”

“The realism, self-distrust, and humble dependence on God that breathes through this petition is something we all need to learn.”

**J. I. PACKER**

*Praying the Lord's Prayer*

In Matthew 26:41 Jesus taught us to: “Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation, for the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” The best guardrails are in the first part of what Jesus said: watching and praying.

“He that would be little in temptation, let him be much in prayer.”

**JOHN OWEN**

“Jesus knows the weight of the struggles you are going through. In fact, He understands temptation at a much more intense level than we ever will, yet He stood victorious.”

**PASTOR JIM THOMAS**

## Study No. 9: Is Temptation Avoidable?

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“Temptation will come. But left to yourself, you are like a tumbleweed in a tornado, a handkerchief in a hurricane. The lion will roar, the viper will strike, the flaming arrows of temptation will fly, and you will fall—apart from grace. That is why you need God. Beware of self-confidence.”

**BRIAN G. HEDGES**

*Watchfulness*

The traditional list of seven deadly sins includes: pride, greed, wrath, envy, lust, gluttony and sloth. Have you noticed how we don't talk about these things much anymore? Why do you think that is and what impact do you believe it is having on society, especially on our kids to simply ignore the subjects of temptation and sin?

“The typical temptation of the young is lust, of the middle-aged ambition, and of the elderly bitterness. Actually, all three drives are similar and related: ambition is a refined lust, bitterness a disappointed one.”

**FREDERICK DALE BRUNER**

*Matthew*

## Study No. 9: Is Temptation Avoidable?

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find out the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness — they have lived a sheltered life by always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it: and Christ, because He was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means — the only complete realist.”

**C. S. LEWIS**

*Mere Christianity*

“Even here, in your repentance, you must not only turn from temptation and sin but also turn to Christ. He is the One who both preserves the tempted and restores the fallen. So wherever you are in respect to temptation and sin, seek Christ.”

**BRIAN G. HEDGES**

*Watchfulness*

## Study No. 9: Is Temptation Avoidable?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Looking back across this series, how does asking for daily bread, forgiveness, and protection from temptation summarize the entire rhythm of the Christian life?
2. How does knowing that Jesus intimately understands your battles alter the amount of honesty and transparency you bring to your personal prayer times?
3. We learned that the Holy Spirit works to convict, warn, lead, and guide us. Can you think of a recent time when you felt a sudden “internal warning sign” before stepping into a bad situation or conversation? Did you heed it?
4. Pastor Jim mentions that we sometimes need the strength to “resist” and other times the wisdom to “flee” a temptation. How can we discern whether a specific temptation in our life requires us to stay and fight, or physically turn and run away from it?
5. The petition is phrased as “Lead us not into temptation” rather than “Keep me out of trouble.” How can we better look out for, support, and protect our friends or family members when we see them wandering into areas of temptation?
6. What is one practical boundary or habit you can put into place today to show that you are actively “watching and praying” against entering into temptation this week?

## STUDY NO. 10

# Deliver Us from Evil

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Is the Lord's Prayer just a safe, comforting ritual, or is it something far more meaningful? Pastor Jim Thomas explores the petition: "Deliver us from evil", and encourages us to recognize prayer as a means God uses to shape and transform His people.

This study invites us to look both outward at a fractured world and inward at our own vulnerable hearts, offering a path to becoming so captivated by God's light and beauty that darkness loses its hold on our lives.

## Study No. 10: Deliver Us From Evil

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“We do well not to pray the Lord’s Prayer lightly. It takes guts to pray it at all. To speak those words is to invite the tiger out of the cage, to unleash a power that makes atomic power look like a warm breeze.”

**FREDERICK BUECHNER**

Jesus teaches us to pray: ‘Deliver us from evil.’ At least three things are being affirmed here: Jesus is clear and unequivocal about the existence and reality of evil. Jesus is clear about how evil entraps us and is in pursuit of those who follow Him. Jesus wants us to know that if we desire to avoid temptation and evil, we should seek the help of God to do so.

“May we be so captivated by God’s light, goodness, and beauty, that no evil or ugly object, thought, word, or deed is given a split second of our attention today.”

**PASTOR JIM THOMAS**

“Certain new theologians dispute original sin, which is the only part of Christian theology which can really be proved....they essentially deny human sin, which they can see in the street.”

**G. K. CHESTERTON**

*Orthodoxy*

## Study No. 10: Deliver Us From Evil

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either — but right through every human heart — and through all human hearts.”

**ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN**

*The Gulag Archipelago*

“The vocabulary of salvation is extensive: save, deliver, ransom, redeem, help, restore, heal.”

**EUGENE PETERSON**

*Practice Resurrection: A Conversation on Growing Up in Christ*

“So when you pray to be saved, to be delivered from the test, you are acknowledging that you are not in control of your fate, that there really is something in the world worth resisting, that this world and its rewards are not enough, and that you answer to some greater power than that which the world bows before.”

**WILLIAM H. WILLIMON & STANLEY HAUERWAS**

*Lord, Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer & the Christian Life*

## Study No. 10: Deliver Us From Evil

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Frederick Buechner writes, “it takes guts to pray [the Lord’s Prayer] at all” and that doing so is like “inviting the tiger out of the cage”. Have you ever thought of prayer as something wildly powerful, or do you tend to view it as a safe, predictable routine?
2. Why is it so crucial for a Christian to pray for deliverance from personal sin within, just as much as outward protection from the evils in world?
3. Think about a time when you experienced the direct or indirect impact of evil acts perpetrated by someone else. How does the prayer for God to free and deliver them offer comfort or guidance for processing that pain?
4. What is one specific, beautiful thing about God’s character that you can intentionally focus on this week to help crowd out dark or anxious thoughts?

STUDY NO. 11

# Thine Is The Kingdom

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What happens when we finally stop trying to control our own lives and acknowledge who truly rules the universe? Pastor Jim Thomas explores the triumphant concluding doxology of the Lord's Prayer: "For Thine is the kingdom."

Diving into one of his favorite theological pursuits, the absolute sovereignty of God, Pastor Jim breaks down the immense comfort found in God's rightful reign over all creation. Drawing on insights from John Stott, this study shows how a lifestyle of humility and surrender allows King Jesus to take His rightful place over our desires, our daily work, and our very identity.

## Study No. 11: Thine Is The Kingdom

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

Israel's great King David recognized God's rightful reign as the ultimate King over all creation...

“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as Head above all.”

**1 CHRONICLES 29:11**

“Before we can pray, ‘Lord, Thy Kingdom come,’ we must be willing to pray, ‘My Kingdom go.’”

**ALAN REDPATH**

“We are seeing the necessary balance of two purposes of petitionary prayer—to put the world right (‘thy kingdom come’) and to align our hearts with God (‘thy will be done’).”

**TIM KELLER**

*Prayer*

“When we declare ‘Thine is the Kingdom,’ we are actively dethroning all the little mini-kingdoms we try to build for ourselves. We are acknowledging that history is not spinning out of control, and our personal lives are not subject to random chance, but are held firmly under the sovereign authority of King Jesus.”

**PASTOR JIM THOMAS**

## Study No. 11: Thine Is The Kingdom

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“Our appetite for the living God has been whetted with a bit of bread and a sip of wine and we want more. And, by God’s grace, we shall have more. We shall feast at that great banquet open to all ages, nations, and peoples. Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.”

**WILLIAM H. WILLIMON & STANLEY HAUERWAS**

*Lord, Teach Us: The Lord’s Prayer & the Christian Life*

“When Jesus spoke of the kingdom of God He was not referring to the general sovereignty of God over nature and history, but to that specific rule over His own people which He Himself had inaugurated, and which begins in anybody’s life when he humbles himself, repents, believes, submits and is born again.”

**JOHN STOTT**

*The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*

## Study No. 11: Thine Is The Kingdom

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you hear the word “sovereignty,” does it bring you a sense of fear or a sense of deep comfort? Why?
2. The theme of the Kingdom shows up twice in this prayer: once near the beginning (“Thy kingdom come”) and again at the very end (“For Thine is the Kingdom”). Why do you think Jesus brackets our daily requests (for bread, forgiveness, and protection) inside the reality of God’s overarching Kingdom?
3. John Stott writes that God’s Kingdom actively begins in a person’s life when they humble themselves, repent, believe, and submit. Which of these feels the most difficult to practice in your current season of life?
4. Alan Redpath once wrote, “Before we can pray, ‘Thy Kingdom come,’ we must be willing to pray, ‘My Kingdom go.’” What is one practical thing or desire you need to let go of this week to make more room for God’s rule in your life?
5. In what ways can we actively show our family, neighbors, or coworkers that we belong to a different, heavenly Kingdom through our actions and attitudes?

STUDY NO. 12

# Thine Is The Power

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When our own strength inevitably fails us, where do we anchor our hope? Journey line by line into the stunning conclusion of the Lord's Prayer: "For Thine is the power."

Drawing from the rich encouragement of 1 Peter, Pastor Jim explores what it looks like to live out a "living hope" that is actively protected by the sovereign might of God. Discover the true theological depth behind the word "Amen" and learn how walking in the light of His power can completely transform your daily anxieties into unshakeable peace.

## Study No. 12: Thine Is The Power

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

John 1:1–3

I wonder what would happen if we were better at keeping this in mind as we pray, as we sing to God, as we gather together with God’s people for corporate worship? What increased sense of anticipation might that engender? Probably much more than we have right now in many churches and yes, in many of our individual hearts too!

“On the whole I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? It is madness to wear ladies’ hats and straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets.”

**ANNIE DILLARD**

“We have a living hope, Peter says, because we are protected by the power of God, the God of all might, and by His grace appropriated through faith, we have the promise of a complete reserved salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

**PASTOR JIM THOMAS**

## Study No. 12: Thine Is The Power

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“Many Christians estimate difficulties in light of their own resources, and thus attempt little and often fail in the little they attempt. All God’s giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His power and presence being with them.”

**HUDSON TAYLOR**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

**1 PETER 1:3-5**

## Study No. 12: Thine Is The Power

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Now that we are reaching the final lines of the most famous, well-known, and frequently uttered prayer in human history, how has walking through it verse by verse changed the way you view its value?
2. The study breaks down the concept of God's power not just as abstract cosmic energy, but as an active, protective shield. When you experience seasons of vulnerability or weakness, how does shifting your focus to God's omnipotence provide a practical defense against anxiety?
3. How does having an eternal inheritance that is completely secure change the amount of pressure you feel to succeed or protect yourself in the present world?
4. Why do you think Jesus chose to end the prayer by pointing our attention away from our human needs (bread, forgiveness, protection) and back to the power of God?

STUDY NO. 13

# Thine Is The Glory

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In this study, Pastor Jim Thomas continues his line-by-line journey of the Lord's Prayer, focusing on the profound declaration, "For Thine is the glory."

Reflecting on the meaning of glory as splendor, magnificence, and honor, Pastor Jim explores how the entire universe—from billions of distant galaxies to the intricate photoreceptors in the human eye—points directly to an intelligent designer.

Highlighting timeless insights from theologians like Jonathan Edwards, Andrew Murray, and Thomas Manton, we're invited to orient our lives toward the enduring glory of God. Learn how choosing humility and seeking God's glory above all else can transform your relationships, your work ethic, and your daily walk of faith.

## Study No. 13: Thine Is The Glory

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“glory” = splendor, magnificence, beauty, honor and renown

“Everything that exists is a finger that points to God’s existence and glory.”

**PAUL DAVID TRIPP**

*Do You Believe?*

“God values the overflow of His glory and when other beings respond to it properly with praise and adoration. He created the world to be an arena where this can happen. Each of these things can be considered the ultimate ends God had in mind when He created the world.”

**JONATHAN EDWARDS**

*The End for Which God Created the World*

“All that we can see and the equipment through which we can see anything at all are not a happy accident, but rather the complexity and beauty all point to the glory of an intelligent designer.”

**PASTOR JIM THOMAS**

## Study No. 13: Thine Is The Glory

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“Nothing can cure you of the desire of receiving glory from men, or of the sensitiveness and pain and anger which come when it is not given, but giving yourself to seek only the glory that comes from God. Let the glory of the All-glorious God be everything to you. You will be freed from the glory of men and of self, and be content and glad to be nothing. Out of this nothingness you will grow strong in faith, giving glory to God, and you will find that the deeper you sink in humility before Him, the nearer He is to fulfill the every desire of your Faith.”

**ANDREW MURRAY**

*Humility*

“Let me press you to take the word of God as your rule, the Spirit of God as your guide, the promises of God as your encouragement, and the glory of God as your end.”

**THOMAS MANTON**

*Sermons on Psalm 119*

## Study No. 13: Thine Is The Glory

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what areas of your daily life (work, social media, relationships) do you find yourself seeking human approval rather than God's glory?
2. Andrew Murray suggests that the cure for the pain of being ignored or unappreciated is "giving yourself to seek only the glory that comes from God." How does shifting your focus to God's glory change how you respond when you feel overlooked by people?
3. What is something in everyday nature or human design that personally stops you in your tracks and points you toward a Creator?
4. Thomas Manton encouraged believers to take "the glory of God as your end" (your purpose or reason for living). What does it look like practically to make God's glory the goal of your career, your hobbies, or your family life in this week?

STUDY NO. 14

# Forever & Amen

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In this final installment of our study of The Lord's Prayer, Pastor Jim Thomas unpacks the beautiful and triumphant conclusion to the prayer Jesus taught us: "forever and amen". Explore the human longing for eternity and why the Bible tells us that God has uniquely placed "eternity in our hearts".

Pastor Jim shares how an eternal perspective infuses our temporal lives with profound significance, purpose, and hope. Discover how closing our prayers with a hearty "Amen" is not just a polite sign-off, but an active, revolutionary alignment with God's truth and a declaration of ultimate trust in His enduring Kingdom.

## Study No. 14: Forever & Amen

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“The creation of the world was to give vent to the gracious heart of Christ. And the joy of heaven is that we will enjoy that unfettered and undiluted heart forevermore.”

**DANE ORTLUND**

*Gentle and Lowly*

Having a capacity for eternity opens life up to real meaning and purpose. The possibility of life “forever” transforms how we live our life today. Plus, it offers us great hope for tomorrow. In other words, because this life is not all there is, because God has created us with forever in mind, our lives have eternal significance, hope, meaning and purpose!

“The task is not to find the meaning of life within the finite but to relate the finite to the infinite, to find oneself in God, the eternal.”

**SØREN KIERKEGAARD**

*Concluding Unscientific Postscript to the Philosophical Fragments*

“Jesus knows we were made for so much more than we can see, taste, touch, feel, and hear. Jesus is teaching us to pray that God’s kingdom, God’s power and glory would be experienced now, but also that it would continue on into forever.”

**PASTOR JIM THOMAS**

## Study No. 14: Forever & Amen

### STUDY NOTES + QUOTES

“It is good news that we are not the random byproducts of a meaningless universe, but rather creations of a loving God who wants to live with us forever. That ‘God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son’ in order to reconcile with His rebellious creation. That by entering our world, the Son took on our sufferings and temptations, demonstrating in person that nothing—not even death—can separate us from the love of God.”

**PHILIP YANCEY**

“What if the 2000 year-old story is only able to reconnect with our deepest desires for meaning, purpose, and identity, because it is the true story to which all other stories point?”

**JUSTIN BRIERLEY**

*The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God*

“To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.”

**KARL BARTH**

Forever, amen!

## Study No. 14: Forever & Amen

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Jim notes that we all experience moments, like a great vacation or a wonderful meal with close friends, that we wish would last forever. How do these everyday longings point to the reality that we were made for something far beyond this temporal world?
2. Ecclesiastes 3:11 states that God has placed “eternity in our hearts”. How does knowing that your life has eternal significance change the way you view your daily routines, frustrations, and choices?
3. Soren Kierkegaard wrote that our task is “to relate the finite to the infinite, to find oneself in God, the eternal”. What is one practical way you can orient your mind toward an eternal mindfulness in the midst of a busy, distraction-filled week?
4. The word “Amen” represents a “hearty assent” or saying, “Truly, I really believe this”. When you pray the Lord’s Prayer, which specific line or petition do you find hardest to give your wholehearted, defiant “Amen” to?



We hope you have benefited from this study of The Lord's Prayer. If so, please feel free to pass it along to friends and family who you think might be encouraged by it. In addition, TVC will be producing other study guides in the near future. If you'd like to be informed about those, please [subscribe to our newsletter](#). If you'd like to support the ministry of The Village Chapel, visit [thevillagechapel.com/give](http://thevillagechapel.com/give).