

# Prayer

Coming to the Throne  
with Purpose, Passion and Praise

## SAMPLE PAGES: Table of Contents Lesson Seven, Days One through Three

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— Kristie Gant —

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*Our Father which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

Matthew 6:9b-13 KJV

*“The eyes of all  
look expectantly to You...  
You open Your hand  
And satisfy the desire  
of every living thing.”*

Psalm 145:15-16

## Lesson *Seven*

# *Just a Reminder...*

“...And thank You for my blocks, and for my bed, and my pillow, and my toy dog. And thank You for the yard outside and the fence and for my wagon and our sidewalk...”

My four-year-old son’s blond head shook slowly back and forth over two tightly-clenched hands as he prayed before another meal. We often asked our children if they would like to pray before we ate, and Craig always did. Whenever he did, he really started talking to God in earnest! He would go on and on, listing people and things for which he was thankful (each by name!), praying for his needs, and praying for his friends and family.

After several lukewarm dinners in a row (and, unfortunately, without praying or consulting with anyone else about the matter), I decided to “fix” the problem. I had a talk with Craig. I gently asked if he would pray shorter prayers at dinner time so we could eat our food while it was still hot. He listened sweetly and said, “Okay.”

To make a long story short, my child, who had loved to pray, almost quit praying entirely. When we asked if he would like to pray, he said, “No, thank you, someone else can pray.” It was years before my little boy seemed to again find a desire to pray.

I now understand that Craig’s long prayers should not have been a bother to us.\* Rather, they should have caused our hearts to rejoice! We had a little boy who loved to talk to God, and we should have been learning from his example that *nothing* is ever too small to escape our God’s notice. God cares for His children as a Father, and He gives us everything that we have.

This, of course, is a reminder that we all need. In the busyness of life, it can be easy to forget God’s kindness in giving us food, as well as everything else. This week, may your heart remember and praise God for His many blessings. What an amazing, gracious God He is!

\*For a better way to handle this type of situation, see Appendix D, under Lesson Seven.

# DAY ONE

"The \_\_\_\_\_ expectantly to You...You open Your hand  
And satisfy \_\_\_\_\_ every living thing."

Psalm 145:15-16

Scripture often calls believers to "remember." Because of the weakness of the flesh, we can begin to take truths for granted and neglect Christian disciplines. Reminders help us avoid such problems. Although you may be familiar with many of the truths in this lesson, let them be a welcome reminder to you!

Each day this week, you will study one portion of the request,

"[God,] Give us this day our daily bread."

Today, consider the One to whom this petition is addressed: *God (Our Father)*.

1. First, meditate on the awesomeness of your God as you contrast the love and concern God has for His people with His transcendence (His surpassing greatness and nature that is beyond our own). Record key phrases from the boldface reference in each section.

## ***God's Care and Concern for Man*** ————— ***God's Transcendence***

Matthew 6:25, 32

**Isaiah 40:12, 21-22**

*"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on... For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."*

**Psalm 139:1-6**

**Isaiah 57:15**

*"For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place...'"*

Psalm 139:13

**Psalm 68:4**

*"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb."*

**Luke 12:6-7**

**Isaiah 66:1**

*"Thus says the LORD: 'Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool...'"*

2. Continue to meditate for several minutes on the verses you have just read. (If you wish to read more, see Deuteronomy 33:26-27 and Isaiah 40:25-31, 48:12-13.) Take some time to praise the Father, who cares for your ordinary, day-to-day needs and also orders the universe. May the Spirit give you a heart full of awe and thanksgiving.

3. A wonderful place in Scripture to see both God's care for man and His transcendence is in Psalm 23 and Psalm 24. Read through alternating verses from these psalms and consider the greatness of God!

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>1</sup>*The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness,  
The world and those who dwell therein.*

<sup>2</sup>He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.

<sup>2</sup>*For He has founded [the earth] upon the seas,  
And established it upon the waters.*

<sup>3</sup>He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

<sup>3</sup>*Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?  
Or who may stand in His holy place?*

<sup>4</sup>*He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,  
Nor sworn deceitfully.*

<sup>5</sup>*He shall receive blessing from the LORD,  
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;  
For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>6</sup>*This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him,  
Who seek Your face. Selah*

<sup>7</sup>*Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.*

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

<sup>8</sup>*Who is this King of glory?*

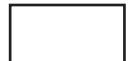
*The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.*

<sup>9</sup>*Lift up your heads, O you gates!  
Lift up, you everlasting doors!  
And the King of glory shall come in.*

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

<sup>10</sup>*Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts,  
He is the King of glory. Selah*

4. "Selah" is a term that calls God's people to pause (giving time for reflection). As you reflect on all you have studied today, record the one thought about God that has most blessed your heart—and then pray.



## DAY TWO

*"The eyes of all look expectantly to You... \_\_\_\_\_ hand  
And \_\_\_\_\_ the desire of \_\_\_\_\_ living \_\_\_\_\_."*

Psalm \_\_\_\_\_ :15-16

Today, consider the phrase: *give us.*

Three of God's names are especially meaningful regarding His "everyday" provision for His own. Even if these names are familiar to you, use this study as a "reminder," and consider even familiar truths as if you were learning them for the first time. (*If time is limited, complete only the first name: Jehovah-Jireh.*)

1. God is *Jehovah-Jireh*: the LORD who sees, and therefore knows and gives, what we need. Unless you already know the story well, read Genesis 22:9-14 before answering the following questions.

- a. What did Jehovah-Jireh provide for Abraham in Genesis 22:13-14?

What is the literal meaning of the name Jehovah-Jireh and why? (v. 14)

What has He provided for you? (John 1:29)

- b. How many of our needs does God supply? As you read Philippians 4:19 (below), circle the three-word phrase beginning with the word "all."

*"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

(*Optional:* If you have access to Greek word study tools, complete word studies on several key words in Philippians 4:19, such as "supply," "need," "according," and "riches." Record your findings in the space below. Be sure to rewrite the verse using the definitions you found.)

## *Lesson Seven*

c. In Isaiah 65:24 God reveals how He will anticipate and provide for His people in the kingdom to come:

*“It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.”*

There is a sense in which this is true for God's people now. For example, God knew Abraham would be faithful to the command to offer up Isaac, and knew he would need a substitute sacrifice—and, although Abraham did not see it at first, God had already provided a ram caught in the thicket.

God already knows everything we need or will need...and provision is there. Record what you learn about two of our needs from the following Scriptures. The first answer is provided.

<b><i>Man's Need</i></b>	<b><i>When Seen / Provided</i></b>	<b><i>When Received</i></b>
Ephesians 2:12	Revelation 13:8b	Acts 16:30-31
<i>Christ</i>		
Matthew 6:31-32	Matthew 6:8, Acts 15:18 NKJ*	Luke 11:9-10

d. If God already knows what we need, why pray prayers of dependence which are petitions for our own needs or the needs of others?

e. In light of the name Jehovah-Jireh, what are some of our daily responsibilities? Underline each responsibility seen in the following passages.

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” —Philippians 4:6-8*

*“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.” —1 Timothy 6:17*

*“It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night,” —Psalm 92:1-2*

*“Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits” —Psalm 103:2*

f. Which responsibility is easiest? Which hardest? Why?

\* In the NKJ, this verse reads, “Known to God from eternity are all His works.”

*2.* God is *Jehovah-Rapha*: the LORD who heals. (Exodus 15:26)

a. The LORD is in sovereign control over life, death, sickness and healing (*both* physical and spiritual). The truth that we are not in the hands of fate or the devil should be a daily comfort to all believers! Record thoughts about life and healing from Job 12:9-10, Psalm 103:1-5 and 147:1-3.

b. Combine truths about Jehovah-Jireh (question #1) with understandings about the healing power of Jehovah-Rapha. What new insights do you gain?

*3.* God is *Abba* (in Aramaic) and *Pater* (in Greek): He is our Father.

You have already examined God as Father in Lesson Three, but spend a few more moments today gaining additional insight into the provisions of a father for his children. As you consider the passages given, make brief notes in the box below.

***Insights on God as the Father who gives all I need***

Psalm 37:23-26

Psalm 84:10-12

*4.* Now meditate on all three names together. How does knowing God's ability to both see and provide, His power to heal, and His relationship to you as Father, serve to give you hope and strength for daily life and prayer?

*5.* Knowing God as Jehovah-Jireh, Jehovah-Rapha and Abba, Father, should draw our hearts continually to prayer, so that we come with hope to the throne, knowing we will be heard, and saying with the psalmist,

*"Lord, all my desire is before You."*

Psalm 38:9

## DAY THREE

*"The eyes of all look \_\_\_\_\_ open Your hand  
And \_\_\_\_\_ of every living thing."*

145:15-16

Today, you will study the next phrase of the request: “[God,] Give us *this day* our daily bread.”

John Blanchard says: “...God supplies perfectly measured grace to meet the needs of the godly. For daily need—daily grace, Sudden need—sudden grace, Overwhelming need—overwhelming grace.”<sup>1</sup>

May we grow ever more aware of God’s grace in providing for our daily needs, and may we *never* grow negligent of both asking for what we need, nor of thanking Him after He provides.

1. Read the **boldface** reminders below. Then, for each Scripture passage:

- Underline truths we should remember as we ask God for our daily needs.
- In the right hand column, evaluate how well you do in remembering and living in light of each truth.

**Reminder*****How Well Do I Remember and Live in Light of This Truth?***

Poor						Very Well				
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- a. **Asking daily reminds us that we need to live in continual dependence upon God** (rather than by fleshly independence and self-sufficiency).

*“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God...” —2 Corinthians 3:5*

*“For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?” —1 Corinthians 4:7*

*“Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches— Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, And say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.” —Proverbs 30:8-9*

- b. **“...our idea of necessity is not always God’s.”<sup>2</sup>**

*“You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.” —James 4:3*

### *Reminder*

### *How Well Do I Remember and Live in Light of This Truth?*

Poor						Very Well				
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- c. **The God who knows even the number of hairs on our heads is concerned with the smallest, simplest parts of our lives.** Scripture *never* tell us, “Ask God for big things, but handle little things by yourself.”

*“Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah”*

—Psalm 62:8

- d. **Usually, God chooses to meet man’s physical needs by allowing/strengthening him to work.**

*“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”*

—2 Thessalonians 3:10

*“She watches over the ways of her household,  
And does not eat the bread of idleness”* —Proverbs 31:27

*“And you shall remember the LORD your God,  
for it is He who gives you power to get wealth...”*

—Deuteronomy 8:18a

2. Three of the most important truths about daily provision are found below. What are they and what impact should they have on our living and praying?

#### *Truth*

#### *Impact on Living*

#### *Impact on Praying*

- a. Matthew 6:33  
(for context, see verses 25-33)

- b. Luke 12:22-23

- c. 1 Timothy 6:7-8

3. As you spend a few minutes meditating on the truths in today’s lesson, ask the LORD to reveal any areas of sin in the way you view His daily provision for your life—then go to the Father in worship, dependence and repentance.

# **END OF SAMPLE**