

Confirmation Retreat on the Lord's Prayer - Session on Temptation and Evil

Versions of the Lord's Prayer

King James ("Traditional") Version:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed by 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 for ever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

"Pray then in this way:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one."

Ecumenical ("Contemporary") Version:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
You kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Luke 11:2-4

He said to them, "When you pray, say:
Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to
us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial."

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Session on Temptation, Evil, and the Doxology

*Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.*

*And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.*

Supplies:

- Bible for each student
- Looseleaf lined paper
- Pen or pencil for each student
- Small Catechism, if a Lutheran group of students

Gathering: 10-15 min icebreaker, as appropriate for the group.

Activity:

Distribute paper and writing utensils. Invite the students to fold their paper in half lengthwise, labeling the left side "Things I Can Do" and the right side "Things Others Can Do."

Tell the students:

Each of us has the power to do great things. But each of us also can hurt each other, deeply. I want you to take the next few minutes thinking about things that you have the power to do that hurt others, and things that others can do to hurt you.

We want you to make these lists *real* and *honest*. What do we mean by "real and honest?"

We mean that we want these lists to be about *you*. Yes, in theory you can do a lot of things to hurt other people. But I'm not interested in hearing about how you *could* if you *really wanted to* become the new last Airbender and take people down, or how in a war between werewolves and vampires you could get seriously hurt. Superheroes and monsters are great, but what I want to know is about *you*. *You*, as you are *right now*, have power. You may not know it because most of you can't drive and all of you still live with your parents. A lot of your life is dependent on others. But you *do* have power. You can do harm or good. And others around you have power. I need you to reflect on *you* and on *your life*.

But, in the same breath - these things that you're listing don't have to be things that you *have* done. I just want you to think about a regular day in your life. What's your schedule? Do you have practice before school, what classes are you in, where do you eat lunch, what do you do after school? Do you go on Facebook, do you watch TV, do you text, etc. Who do you interact with? Your parents, your teachers, your fellow students, your friends, your brothers and sisters, your bus driver, your coach, etc. There are all these interactions in a single day where someone can hurt someone else. I want you to list the *realistic possibilities*.

I'll ask you to work by yourself for three minutes, as silently as you can, then get into groups of two, then into groups of four.

After 3 min: Okay. Join up with someone near you. Compare your lists, then start brainstorming together.

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After 2 min: **Okay, join up with another group of two. Compare lists.**

After 2 min: **Okay, in your groups of four, I want you to start thinking bigger. I asked you to think about what happens in an ordinary day for you. Now I want you all to talk together about bigger ideas. How can one person hurt a group of people? How can groups of people hurt other groups of people? Can a country hurt another country?**

After 3 min: **Okay, write down your last idea and bring your discussion to a close.**

I want you to share one idea that really got your group talking. Maybe you all agreed that this should go on the list and you all felt the same way about it. Or, you talked a lot because you weren't all sure it should go on the list. (Call on each group to share one.)

When each group has shared, distribute a fresh piece of paper for each group. Explain: **Now is the part that gets tricky. I've been asking you to brainstorm what *you* think should be on the list. I want you to spend some time now with the Gospel story and see if you can find anything that you think goes on the list. Are there activities that Jesus mentions that hurt others?**

Walk around the room. Some groups may need help with finding the Gospel (depending on their Bible fluency) or thinking of examples. Encourage students to look at the *stories*, not just individual verses.

After 5 min, or as the discussion seems to wane: **Alright. I'd like everyone to open to Matthew 6:9-13. Can someone read just the first verse (Matthew 6:13) ?**

If working with a Lutheran group, distribute the Small Catechisms and invite them to turn to the section on the Lord's Prayer, finding the entry on The Sixth and Seventh Petitions. Ask for a reader if someone is willing.

This is what we've been making lists about - the *time of trial* and *evil*. In the traditional version of the Lord's Prayer, this part went, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Your lists are lists of *temptations* - things that you can do to hurt others - and *evil* - things that can be done that hurt you.

So when we say the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "Forgive us, and help us to forgive others," but in the same breath we say "Help us not need to be forgiven or to forgive. Help us to avoid hurting others, and help others to avoid hurting us."

Discuss in your groups: Are there any similarities between what's on your lists and what's on the Gospel lists? Can you make any connections between them? Is there anything on your lists that you now want to change? (5 min)