

SEMBRADOS
EN BUENA TIERRA

LEARNING TO
PRAY

By: Heriberto and Elsa Hermosillo

To all our **semillosos** that had the patience to wait until God finished His project. We thank each and every one of you the bottom of our heart in hope that this material will edify your lives and the lives of many others.

Heriberto and Elsa Hermosillo

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Introduction

We give you our warmest welcome to this section: **Learning to Pray**

We trust that, by living according to the principles that the Word of God reveals in these passages, we will learn how to communicate with our Heavenly Father; and that therefore, His kingdom will be established in our lives.

We love you!

1. Acknowledge His paternity

“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our father in heaven...” Mathew 6:9a

Mathew 6:5-8

5 “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 men. I tell you the
truth, they have received
their reward in full.

6 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.

7 And when you pray, do
not keep on babbling like
pagans, for they think
they will be heard
because of their many
words.

8 Do not be like them,
for your Father knows
what you need before
you ask him.

John 3:31

31 “The one who comes
from above is above all;
the one who is from
earth belongs to the
earth, and speaks as one
from the earth. The one
who comes from heaven
is above all.

John 17:20-21

20 “My prayer is not for
them alone. I pray also
for those who will
believe in me through
their message,
21 that all of them may
be one, Father, just as
you are in me and I am
in you. May they also be
in us so that the world
may believe that you
have sent me.

Just because we are Christians does not mean that we automatically know how to pray. We need to ask our Lord, in the same way that the disciples did, to teach us how to pray. Jesus said in **John 15:7**: **“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you.”**

Any person who prays would want all of his or her petitions to be answered, but Jesus said that there was one condition for Him to answer the desires of our heart: Remain in Him, and that His words remain in us.

What does it mean to “Remain in Him”?

Remain in Him means to establish a relationship with God by knowing and obeying His Word so that we can develop God’s heart and mind, and so that His image will be formed in us, fulfilling the purpose that He has for our lives. When we understand what it means to “remain” in Christ and in His Words, we can also guard our heart from thinking that God will always answer all our desires in the way and in the time we want Him to. **“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” James 4:3.** As we continue to know God, we understand that He is our Lord and not our slave, and thus we learn to ask in the correct way.

How can we learn to ask correctly?

We need to ask our Lord in the same way the first disciples did: **teach us to pray.**

In **Mathew 6:5-8**, Jesus begins His teaching about prayer, admonishing us to avoid two very common mistakes:

1. Avoid boasting

In Jesus’ time, the Jews prayed so that people would see them. Praying in this way will bring the reward of being applauded by men, but it will not give us God’s favor (**Mathew 6:5**).

In contrast, Jesus says to His disciples, **“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.”** Praying in private will bring the reward of receiving God’s answer publicly (**Mathew 6:6**).

2. Avoid vain repetitions

“And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.” Mathew 6:7. Jesus emphasized that we avoid vain repetitions and many words, which leads us to listen to ourselves instead of communicating with our Lord. The Gentiles were accustomed to using prefabricated, repetitive prayers, as if God needed repetition to understand them, or as if the prayers were magical phrases by which men could materialize their desires.

The true Christian uses his own words; he knows that he has access to his Heavenly Father because Christ opened a new and living way. The Christian does not pray so that God may find out what he needs, because he knows that God is omniscient (**Mt. 6:8**), but rather to align his thoughts to God's will by acknowledging his need and humbly showing his total dependency on Him. He is willing to listen to God's voice and to adjust his petitions according to God's will.

Once Jesus warns us from using vain repetitions and from praying only to be seen by men, He teaches us the next step: learn to pray "in this manner", which we know as the "Our Father" (**Mt 6:9-13**). Let's start our study by analyzing the first verse: "**Our Father which art in heaven...**" **Mathew 6:9a**

1. Our

God wants to have a family relationship with our brothers, in other words, with the church or the body of Christ. The Greek root of the word "brothers" tells us that we are "sons of the same pain"; this is Jesus's pain when He paid for our sins on the cross. Jesus's petition for us is that we may be one, so that the world may believe in Him (**John 17:20-21**). Jesus said that He is the light of the world; and if we walk in the light we have fellowship with the Father, the Son, and with our brothers (**1 John 1:6-7**).

2. Father

God wants to develop a fatherly relationship between Himself and us. But because of our sin, there is a barrier between us. The only way to destroy this barrier is by:

- Repenting of our past in which we did not make Him part of our lives. (**Acts 3:19**)
- Accepting Christ's sacrifice in our place, as a payment for our sins. (**Heb. 4:16, 10:19-22**)
- Converting from our sin by accepting His authority in all areas of our lives (**Col. 3:5-14**)
- Allowing Him to transform us unto His image; then we will have the right to be called "sons of God" (**John 1:12**).

3. Heaven

The phrase "Our Father which art in heaven" speaks from a heavenly and eternal perspective over our lives, far beyond our limited, temporal, and earthly perspective. We need to give all our trust to the One who sees further than us. He "is over all", and even that which seems difficult for us, when we are under His will, will work for our good (**John 3:31, Col. 1:15-18**).

If we learn to trust God, taking Him into consideration in every decision and putting His Word into practice, not only will we find rest for our souls, but also His purpose will be fulfilled in our lives.

Verse to memorize:

"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." Mathew 6:6

Acts 3:19

19 Repent, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

Hebrews 4:16

16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 10: 19-22

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,
20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,
21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Colossians 1:15-18

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.
17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Questions for discussion:

1. What are the things we should avoid when praying? Why?

2. What kind of relationship does God want to have with us?

3. What relationship does God want us to have with the church?

4. Why is it important that we understand that He is above us?

1 John 1:6-7

6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

2. Hallow His Name

“... hallowed by your name,” Mathew 6:9b

Genesis 1:26

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

Acts 2:38

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 4:11-12

11 He is “ ‘ the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 8:5

5 Phillip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there.

Acts 8:12

12 But when they believed Phillip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:35-37

35 Then Phillip began with that very passage

The New Testament begins with the 4 gospels: Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John. The three first books, Mathew, Mark, and Luke, are known as the synoptic gospels, because they place in order the life and works of Jesus. However, the purpose of the gospel of John is to identify Jesus as Israel’s anxiously awaited Messiah, and also to tell us about His identity.

In this section of our study, we will analyze the second part of **Mathew 6:9**, and we will try to understand what name this verse refers to and how we can “sanctify” it.

Let’s begin by understanding the meaning of the words: **hallow** and **name**.

- **Hallow**, #37 Strong dictionary = hagiázo (consecrate, hallow, be holy, sanctify)
- **Name**, # 3686 Strong dictionary = Onoma (character, authority)

We can then conclude that “**Hallow His Name**” means to set apart, consecrate, and make holy the character and authority of God. If we look at **Genesis 1:26**, we will find that man was created in his Creator’s image and likeness and with the purpose of reflecting Him. Unfortunately, that image and likeness has been degraded because of sin. In His authority and loving character towards His creation, God has provided a Way by which His image and likeness can be restored in our lives.

Let’s consider the following passages:

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

“No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.” John 1:18

In His omnipotent authority, God has made himself known through Jesus:

“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”
John 14:6-7

Jesus came to make the invisible God known by opening a new and living way through which we can confidently approach Him. We can only do this if we have understood that the wages of our sin is eternal death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord:

“He is the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.” Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:11-12

A true disciple of Jesus is focused on making his life reflect God and making Him known to others:

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John 15:8-9

One of the tools that God left us to accomplish this purpose is His church:

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.” John 17:22

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Mathew 5:14-16

As we align our hearts and our thoughts to our Creator’s through a daily and intimate relationship with Him through His Word, as well as being part of the body of Christ, the privilege of hallowing His Name will become a reality in our lives. Then we will enjoy the abundant life that we receive when we let Him be known to others.

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:5-11

Let’s look at some passages where Peter, Phillip, and Paul hallowed, that is to say, reflected and lifted up, the Name of Jesus:

Peter

- **Acts 2:38:** Encouraged the people to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus.
- **Acts 4:11-12:** Identified Jesus as the only one by whom we can be saved. Defended the gospel in front of the rulers and elders of Israel.

Phillip:

- **Acts 8:5:** Preached Christ
- **Acts 8:12:** Spread the gospel of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus
- **Acts 8:35:** Spread the gospel of Jesus
- **Acts 8:37:** Recognized Jesus as the Son of God

of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?”

37 Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The eunuch answered, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

Acts 9:15-16

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel

16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

Acts 9:20-22

20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?”

22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

Paul

- **Acts 9:15-16:** Suffered because of His Name
- **Acts 9:20:** Preached that Christ was the Son of God
- **Acts 9:22:** Proved that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God

The most important thing we can ask as sons of God is: **“Father, help me testify and let Your Name be known through my life, and allow your character and authority to rule over my life.”**

Verse to Memorize

“This, then, is how you should pray: “ ‘ Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,” Mathew 6:9

Questions for discussion:

1. What does the word “sanctify” or “hallow” mean?

2. What does the word “name” mean?

3. How did Jesus sanctify God’s name?

4. How can we sanctify Jesus’s name?

3. Establish His kingdom

“...your kingdom come...” Mathew 6:10a

John 18:36

36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

Romans 3:24-26

24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand

unpunished-
26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Mathew 6:33

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Romans 5:1-2

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Jesus wants us to learn how to identify our priorities, and for that He tells us to pray: “**your kingdom come**”.

He promises that if we seek His kingdom first, all things will be given to us (**Mt. 6:33**). He also said that His kingdom is not one of this world (**John. 18:36**), meaning that it does not focus on temporal things, on created things, or on the values of this world.

In the last section we learned that our prayer should be: “**Father, help me testify and let Your Name be known through my life, and allow your character and authority to rule over my life.**” Now we need to ask Him to establish His kingdom in our lives.

What characteristics does His Kingdom have?

“**For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**” Romans 14:17

Righteousness

In order to have peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, we need our lives to reflect God’s righteousness in the following areas:

In our lives: We need to get rid of our old self that pursues worldly things and justifies our sinful human condition. We can do this by acknowledging our sin and be clothed with God’s righteousness that is in Christ Jesus (**Rom. 3:24-26**). We need to avoid justifying ourselves and blaming circumstances, other people, or making any other human excuse, and to admit our responsibility in the bad decisions we have made, so we can be forgiven and justified through Christ’s blood.

Through our lives: as subjects of the kingdom of faith in Christ, we should seek to become instruments of His justice, so that when His justice is reflected through us, others may know Him by witnessing how God has transformed our lives (**Rom. 6:12-13**). When we say transformation, we are not talking about a change of behavior, but rather a change of purpose that will bring as a result a new life. My life’s purpose is that the image of God may form in me and that the fruit of the Spirit govern over my life (**Gal. 5:22-23**).

Peace

Peace is the reconciliation of two sides; in this case, between God and us because our sin. Christ has already paid the price of our guilt with His sacrifice; once we have received this gift through grace, we can have peace with God (**Rom. 5:1-2**).

What is the peace of God? (John 14:27)

God’s peace is above all circumstances. It does not matter what life has in store for us, the Lord will always be with us to strengthen and help us in our walk, so that all things work for good as His Word says.

How does peace come into our lives? (Rom. 5:1)

Through Jesus.

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5

Joy

Full joy in the spirit is the result of God’s righteousness acting in our lives (John 15:10-11).

Verse to memorize

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” Romans 14:17

Questions for discussion:

1. What does it mean that God’s kingdom is not of this world?

2. What are the characteristics of God’s kingdom?

3. What does the “God’s righteousness” mean?

4. What does peace mean?

5. How can we find peace with God?

6. How can we truly have joy in our lives?

23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Romans 6:12-13

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires

13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

Romans 5:1

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 15:11

11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

4. Live according to His will

“your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” Mathew 6:10b

1 John 5:19

19 We know that we are children of God and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

John 15:7-8

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Philippians 1: 9-10

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,
10 so be pure and blameless until the day of Christ

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For everything in the world- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does- comes not from the Father but from the world.

17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Have you ever wondered why you must ask in your prayers that the will of God be done? The Word of God tells us in Colossians that if we ask to be filled with knowledge of His will, He will fill us with the knowledge of His will and give us understanding that the Spirit gives, which will allow us to live lives worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way. The best way to make good decisions is to know God through His Word, because this will help us distinguish the will of God, which is good, pleasing, and perfect in our lives.

When the apostle Paul prayed for his disciples in Philippi, he asked that their love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight so that they might be able to discern what is best; in other words, so that they might be able to make good decisions (**Philippians 1:9-10**). This is the same thing that we ask today for those who want to become His disciples. In order to ask God to do His will in our lives, we first need to understand the characteristics of His will. To do so, we will study the following passage:

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:1-2

First, we need to recognize the many ways in which God has had mercy on us. We must remember everything we have received without deserving, most importantly, His forgiveness. We must also reflect upon the consequences of all our bad decisions, which God, in His infinite mercy, has not allowed to reach us.

Only when I learn to value what God did for me can I then offer my life as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, in a rational, understood, and voluntary way. **How can I do this?** By allowing my mind to be transformed through His Word. Learning that true satisfaction is not found in worldly things, but in obedience. Removing from my life the things God tells me to, and by making the necessary changes that God shows me. Doing all this will make my past life die. Then, I will be able to **“put on the new self”**, chosen by God according to His righteousness.

We need to ask that the will of God be done in our lives because His will is:

- **Good:** He wants the best for you
- **Pleasing:** you will like it
- **Perfect:** it is never wrong, He will finish His work in you

Learning to pray according to God’s will implies that His will is the opposite of what this world has to offer, because this world aims to seduce our evil desires.

Concupiscence from the Greek **epithumia**, #1939 Strong Dictionary = strong desire, lust, longing for what is forbidden.

What is our concupiscence? **1 John 2:15-17**
The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Where do these things come from?
From the world, from the Greek **kosmos**, #2889 Strong Dictionary = external makeup, decoration.

Who is behind all of this? **1 John 5:19**
The world is under the devil

How should I pray then? **John 15:7-8**
According to His will.

Do you need help? **Rom. 8:27**
The Holy Spirit intercedes for us.

Verse to memorize:

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
Romans 12:2

Questions for discussion:

1. What are the three characteristics of the will of God?

2. What does it mean that His will is good?

3. What does it mean that His will is pleasing?

4. What does it mean that His will is perfect?

5. What are the three desires that come from the world?

6. Give some examples of the lust of the eyes:

7. Give some examples of the lust of the flesh:

8. Give some examples of the pride of life:

Romans 8:27
27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.

5. Receive His provision

“Give us our daily bread.” Mathew 6:11

James 1:17

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Proverbs 10:22

22 The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.

Psalms 127:1-2

1 Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.
2 In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat – for he grants sleep to those he loves.

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

In this passage Jesus talks about bread as a symbol for everything that we physically need to survive, and He brings us to the recognition that we need Him to provide it. Even the richest men depend on factors such as climate, water, and health in order to have, use, and enjoy everything that they own.

In this section, we will learn that everything that God provides us should be used so that His will can be done in and through our lives.

We should not live restlessly seeking temporal things, as if they were the purpose for our lives, because then we will never reach the satisfaction and abundant life that our Lord has promised us.

Acknowledging His graceful provision will allow us to:

- Understand that **“Every good and perfect gift is from above...” James 1:17**
- Enjoy the provision that comes from Him because it **“adds no trouble” Proverbs 10:22**
- Rest by knowing and trusting His omnipotent love (**Psalms 127:1-2**)
- Develop a thankful heart (**Philippians 4:6-7**)

God wants to protect us from the terrible consequences of not acknowledging His provision, as described in **Romans 1:21, 22, 28**.

- Their thinking became futile
- Their foolish hearts were darkened
- They became fools
- They exchanged the glory of God
- They degraded their bodies
- They exchanged the truth of God for a lie
- They worshiped and served created things
- They changed the natural relations for unnatural ones
- They committed indecent acts
- They received the due penalty for their perversion
- God gave them over to a depraved mind (He stopped holding back the corruption of their mind)

Developing a thankful heart will help us to live a life without the worry of **“what shall I eat tomorrow”**, trusting that He will take care of us.

Care, worry, trouble, from the Greek **merimnao**, #3309 Strong Dictionary = to be anxious about

Jesus places special emphasis on the word **“Today”**, inviting us to stop worrying about the future in **Mathew 6:25, 31-33**. Nevertheless, He does not condemn the man who applies principles of good administration and diligence:

- If a man will not work, he shall not eat (**2 Thessalonians 3:10**)
- Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth (**Proverbs 10:3-5**)
- One last petition from king Solomon to his Lord (**Proverbs 30:7-9**)

Let's remember one more time that the purpose of God's provision is so that we can carry out His purpose in our lives.

We need to focus on:

- Sanctifying His Name
- Establishing His Kingdom
- Living according to His Will

Verse to Memorize:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

Questions for discussion:

1. What benefits will acknowledging **His provision** bring to my life?

2. What are the terrible consequences that develop from an ungrateful heart?

Mathew 6:25, 31-33

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?”

31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2 Thessalonians 3:10

10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.”

Proverbs 10:3-5

3 The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.

4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.

5 He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

Proverbs 30:7-9

7 “Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die:

8 Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.

9 Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.”

6. Manifest His nature

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” Mathew 6:12

John 10:17-18

17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again.

18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord, I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.

Ephesians 2:4-5

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:7

7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Mathew 18:23-35

23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousands talents was brought to him.

25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’

27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his

From this verse, we can ask ourselves these two things:

1. Why should we ask for forgiveness when we pray, if we have already repented and have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior and know that through His blood we have been forgiven for all of our sins?
2. If God’s forgiveness does not depend on our works, how then can we understand the phrase “**as we also have forgiven our debtors**” from **Mathew 6:14 –15**?

We have seen in many passages that God’s forgiveness is based on His undeserved favor toward us, shown by:

- **God’s compassion (John 10:17-18)**

Our sin was a barrier between God and us. God hates sin but loves the sinner; therefore, He shows the sinner compassion. If you have sinned, today is the day to admit it and to open your heart to receive His mercy, and be transformed into a new being.

- **God’s mercy (Ephesians 2:4 –5)**

When we repent, we receive that which we do not deserve: His mercy and grace.

- **God’s divine grace (Ephesians 2:7)**

Grace is something that we could never have deserved because of our sins, and it is a new opportunity of a new life, something that we are not able to buy or attain in any other way.

After we have received these three gifts—God’s compassion, mercy and grace—God enables us to give the same to others through a forgiving disposition.

This idea is expressed in **Mathew 6:14,15**, which, along with **Mathew 18:23-35**, gives us a clear and simple explanation.

As with our salvation, we are not saved solely through our faith, as though faith itself had enough power to save us, but we have been saved by grace (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). Faith needs to be present if we are to be saved, which is why the passage says: “**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith**”. In the same way that faith is necessary to receive grace, the disposition to forgive is necessary to be forgiven. This is the only thing that God asks from us: to have the disposition to forgive. Because we need to make the decision to believe, we also need to make a decision to forgive. God will help us to do this if we have the will to do it. The easiest way to do this is by understanding that we do not forgive because the other person deserves it or because they are not guilty, but because we did not deserve to be forgiven by God, yet He gave us His compassion, mercy, and grace.

God will take care of doing justice for us, if we leave everything in His hands and we choose to rest in His forgiveness, understanding that those who do not know God are under de devil, in the same way

that we were before. How many more things could we have done in our evil nature if we had had the chance?

God puts in our hearts the seed of faith and the will to forgive, after He forgave us through the sacrifice He made in our place.

Finally, here are five reasons to forgive:

1. God ordains it
2. We must follow Christ's example
3. We are debtors
4. It will bring peace to our hearts
5. It will glorify God

Verse to memorize:

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Mathew 6: 14 –15

Questions for discussion:

1. According to Mathew 18:21-35, who forgave first?

2. In the same passage, what does the following phrase mean: **shouldn't you have done the same?**

3. How can I receive the power to forgive?

4. What is the forgiveness that God offers us based on?

5. What are the 5 reasons that I have to forgive?

6. If I have offended my brother, what should I do?

fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?

34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

7. Dress with His protection

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” Mathew 6:13

Galatians 5:16-17, 19-21

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For everything in the world- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does- comes not from the Father but from the world.

17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

In Mathew 6:13, Jesus tells His disciples to pray, “lead us not into temptation”; what does this mean? Jesus is teaching us to ask God not to take his protecting hand away from us so that our evil desires do not take over our lives. Let’s try to understand this through the following passage:

“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. James 1:13-15

God cannot tempt man into doing wrong; rather, our evil desires attract us into sin. Let’s identify our three enemies so that we may be able to confront them:

1. The devil (**Ephesians 6:12**). The devil uses the things of this world to make us fall into sin.
2. The world (**1 John 2:15-17**). Manipulated by Satan. The desires of the eye, the flesh, and the pride of life, which do not come from the Father.
3. The flesh (**Galatians 5:16-17, 19-21**). Our weaknesses in the flesh as a result of having sin in our lives.

When we ask God to “**lead us not into temptation**”, we are asking Him: “**Lord, if you take your hand away from my life, I will not be able to defeat my enemies (the flesh, the world, and the devil). Transform me and help me get away from evil through Your Word so I can overcome temptation.**”

How can we defeat our enemies?

It is a task that involves God and us:

- I need to decide to walk away from my enemies (the flesh, the world, and the devil), being coherent with what I am asking.
- God, through His Word and His Spirit, will give me the power and the strength to do so.

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 6:12

Given that we are at war with very powerful enemies, we need to fight them wearing all of God’s armor, as we see in **Ephesians 6:10-18**:

- **Ephesians 6:10**: depending on God and on the power of His strength

- **Ephesians 6:11:** putting on the armor of God
- **Ephesians 6:14:** standing firm with the belt of truth
- **Ephesians 6:14:** with the breastplate of righteousness. Protecting your heart with Christ's sacrifice
- **Ephesians 6:15:** with our feet fitted with the gospel of peace. Taking the good news wherever you go.
- **Ephesians 6:16:** with the shield of faith. Faith comes from listening to the Word of God.
- **Ephesians 6:17:** the helmet of salvation. Protecting our head with the confidence of our Salvation.
- **Ephesians 6:17:** the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Jesus defeated Satan with The Word; memorize it and declare it throughout trials!
- **Ephesians 6:18:** pray all the time

By doing this, God will give us the power to defeat sin because:

- “For yours is the kingdom”, Jesus, I want you to rule over my life.
- “Yours is the power”, God, only you can do this. You have promised that if we remain in You and Your words in us, everything that we ask will be given to us. (John 15:7)
- “Yours is the glory”, for everything that You do in me. “That all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.” (John 5:23)

Make my life what you had planned ever since I was in my mother's womb. Glorify Your Name, Lord!

Verse to Memorize:

“Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 5:28

Questions for discussion:

1. Where does temptation come from?

2. What are the three steps that bring me to fall into sin according to James?

3. Who are our enemies?

Ephesians 6:12-18

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

James 1:13-15

13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

4. Against who is our spiritual battle?

5. What are the 7 parts of our spiritual armor? Define each one:

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