

PRAYER SCHOOL



Jesus taught a large group of people who were gathered on a mountain. He taught them many things, including prayer. He told His listeners not to make a big show of their praying.

Read Matthew 6:5. What did Jesus say about people who pretend to be holy when they pray? What reward does Jesus mean?



Matthew 6:6-13

When you pray, go into your room, close the door

and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not

keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

Do not be like them,

¹God is given several names in the Old Testament. He revealed Himself to Abraham as "God Almighty." To Moses, God named Himself "I AM," promising that He would be with His people.

for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

What things did Jesus say to do and not to do when you pray? Why?

This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,¹ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.²

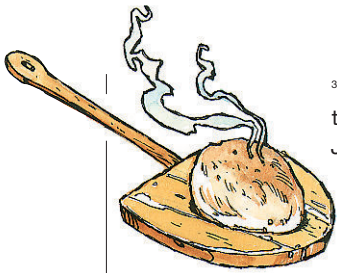
Why do you think it's important that the prayer begins with praise for God? What do we ask to be done on earth and in heaven?

Give us today our daily bread.³

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our



²Repeating the same idea in two different ways is the biblical pattern of parallelism. See Psalm 19:1.



*Proverbs 30:8 refers to bread we eat, and John 6:35 to spiritual bread Jesus gives.

debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

What does "daily bread" mean here? How do we ask God to

forgive us? Who is the evil one? What will he try to do?

Everything we need to pray about is included in this prayer. It is commonly called "The Lord's Prayer." Jesus taught the perfect prayer and we still use it today.

