

YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 22: LORD'S PRAYER

ADDRESS

Introduction

When Jesus' disciples asked Him to give them an example of proper prayer, the example He gave them was the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is a *model prayer*, meaning that it teaches us the kinds of things we can pray for and helps us to form our own prayer to God.

The Lord's Prayer can be outlined as follows:

- A. _____
- B. _____
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____
- C. _____

The Address

Just like we write an address on the front of a letter telling who is to receive it, the *address* of the Lord's Prayer tells us to whom we are praying.

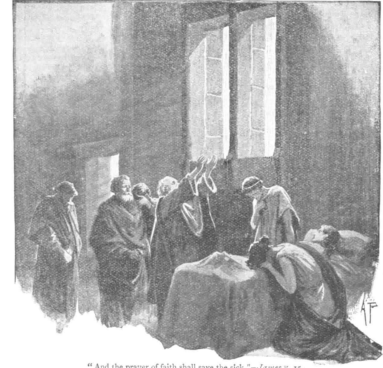
Write the *address* here:

God "Our Father"

In our prayers, Jesus says we can call God *Father*. Who are the only ones who can call God their Father?

- A. Matthew 11:27 _____ (459)
- B. John 1:12 _____

- God calls all believers *His children*. We are members of His *spiritual family*. Therefore we call Him *our Father*. See Galatians 3:26 (1119) and Romans 8:15-16 (1120).
- Unbelievers cannot call God their Father because God doesn't consider unbelievers to be His spiritual children (part of the family of believers). They are instead children of the devil (John 8:44).
- God wants all people to be His children, but only believers in Christ are actually His children and can rightly pray the Lord's Prayer (or any prayer to Him).



"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick."—James 5: 15.

Who Then Can Pray?

The only prayers God answers are those offered by His children, believers in Jesus.

1 Peter 3:12 (1104) "... the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous . . ."

Barry and his friend Ray were out fishing on Lake Winnebago. A storm came up and their little twelve foot boat started to tip into the water. The two didn't know what to do. They had no life jackets with them and there was nobody in sight to help them. All of a sudden they decided they had better start praying even though neither of them really cared much about God or claimed to be Christian. They thought praying might at least be better than nothing and they may as well give it a try.

- What was wrong with their prayer? What happens when an unbeliever prays? Why is it so important to trust in Jesus as your Savior when you offer prayers to God?

How Do Believers Pray?

- Believers offer their prayers *in Jesus' name*. To pray "in Jesus' name" does not mean we must always use the words "in Jesus' name" in our prayers, but it means that when we pray we should remember that the only reason we can come to God and ask for anything is because Jesus died for our sins. Because of Christ, we are holy in God's sight and can pray to Him. See **John 16:23** (1106)
- Believers pray *with confidence* that God will hear and answer them. See **James 1:6** (1108).
- God answers our prayers in three ways: By saying *yes*, by saying *no*, and by saying, *wait*.
- When you pray, what does it mean for you that your Father *is in heaven*?

"The human heart is by nature so desperately wicked that it always flees from God, thinking that He neither wants nor cares for our prayers because we are sinners and have merited nothing but wrath . . . But by His word God testifies that our prayer is heartily pleasing to Him and will assuredly be heard and granted, so that we may not despise or disdain it or pray uncertainly"

- Luther's *Large Catechism*

Review

1. To whom do we pray?
2. Why do we pray in the name of Jesus?
3. For whom should we pray?
4. Does God always hear and answer the prayers of His children?
5. In what three ways does God answer prayer?
6. We should remember to pray for others. We don't want our prayers to be selfish like these:

God bless me and my wife,
Our son John and his wife,
Us four and no more.

O Lord, send Thy blessing upon our land.
If others want the blessing too,
Let them ask for it themselves.

7. Why do we call God *our Father*?
8. Whose prayers does God hear and answer?

Notes

Assignment

- Memorize the Address of the Lord's Prayer with the explanation (Catechism, p. 203)