

This week's application is "begin or extend prayer time" because prayer creates opportunity to be in God's presence so that what he is doing doesn't go unnoticed. This simple guide through the Lord's prayer will help you get started and be intentional to pray. Remember, Jesus said this isn't *what* to pray, but *how* to pray! So use your own words, with these phrases as a guide. Use the lines to write your prayers or journal what the Holy Spirit is speaking to you.

Matthew 6:9-13 (ESV)

How this Shapes our Prayers

My Prayers and/or Responses

*Pray then like this:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.*

Shows familial relationship.
Acknowledges the perspective and position God has. Reminds our soul of his holiness and powerful name.
Establishes God as the holy one to be praised.

*Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on
earth as it is in heaven.*

The beauty of heaven is God's divine authority. Reminds us from where God reigns, the promise of heaven, and the hope of that revelation here on earth. Rehearses the surrender of our will to his.

*Give us this day our
daily bread,*

Positions God as the authority to determine what is essential and what isn't, acknowledging our dependence on him. Recalls to mind a symbol of divine provision (bread), both spiritual and physical.

*and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven
our debtors.*

Causes internal reflection, pointing to our own sin, rather than focus on who has wronged us. Reminds us of the debt we couldn't pay, how important forgiveness is, and of the transformative work of Jesus.

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

Asking God to guard as he guides. Reminds us of the enemy seeking to destroy us and the discernment we need. Admits our fallen nature and deep need for a Savior to deliver and protect us.

Dear Jesus, in closing, I pray that You'd make me into a gospel-centered influencer in every sphere of my life. I want to be spirit-led and make disciples. I'm excited to notice more of what You're doing and partner with you in that work, all for Your glory. Amen.



Note: early manuscripts did not include the "for thine is the kingdom..." doxology that has become the traditional ending to the Lord's prayer, which is why you won't find it in the ESV (and other translations). It derives from a prayer of King David and isn't wrong to pray; it just isn't part of what Jesus said as recorded in Matthew and Luke.