

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Are there any trials or difficult places you are currently walking through? Ask God to show you how the enemy might tempt you to sin in these trials. Write them down and ask God's help for victory over or escape from these trials and temptations.
- In what ways are you most often tempted or most prone to sin? Make a list. Bring them to God in prayer and find a trustworthy accountability partner who can pray with you for victory in these areas.
- Take note of all the areas where your attitudes and actions are those of a self-focused, rather than Kingdom-focused person. What steps can you take this week to change some of those attitudes and actions.

PRAYER

- Partner with someone to pray for victory over or escape from the areas of trial and temptation in your life.
- Ask God for strength, courage, and His help to overcome the areas where you are most often tempted or prone to sin.
- Ask God to help you be a Kingdom-focused person and to empower you to do His Will and advance His Kingdom in practical ways.

NOTES



The Lord's Prayer: Week 4

CONNECT

- If I was given \$1 million, I would....,
- What are the benefits of tradition? What are the negatives?
- What are the benefits of repetition? What are the negatives?

WORD

"¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Matthew 6:13 (NKJV)

THOUGHT

"No prayer is genuinely complete that ignores the struggles of our fallen world; the titanic battle between good and evil that rages around us and within us. Since the Garden of Eden, evil has lurked in the shadows of our hearts and sin has conspired to destroy us. The warning that the Lord gave to Cain remains urgent for us: 'Sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.' (Genesis 4:7) As much as ever, we need to pray 'Deliver us from the evil.' But before deliverance from evil, Jesus teaches us to pray 'Lead us not into testing.'

From 'Living The Lord's Prayer' - Group Study Guide

1. DON'T LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION

"²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

"¹²Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

"¹³When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed."

James 1:2-3,12-14 (NIV)

"¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin."

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)

"¹⁸Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."

Hebrews 2:18 (NIV)

God will not tempt us. However, we can be led into situations which try us, and the enemy may take advantage of those trying circumstances to tempt us toward sin. It's interesting that the same greek word is translated both *trial* and *tempt* because it is not uncommon for both God and the enemy to be at work in the same situation. God's intention in testing is to strengthen and promote us, the enemy wants to entice us by appealing to any sin nature resident in us. God's desire in revealing sin nature within us through testing is to remove it and keep it from destroying us, the enemy wants to use it to draw us into sin and 'steal, kill, and destroy.' What are some common temptations we all struggle with? Have you lived through any trials recently? How were you benefited by those trials? Were there any temptations you faced during those trials? How might it help you to know that Jesus knows both the difficulty you face in temptation as well as how to overcome temptation?

2. DELIVER US FROM EVIL

"¹³No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)

"⁹if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment."

2 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

God won't let you get tempted beyond what you can handle. If you do ever find yourself in a situation where you've given into temptation, God will both forgive your sin and rescue you from the temptation. Prayer is a powerful weapon against temptation and all the weapons of the enemy. It is one of the primary weapons we use to fight evil when it comes at us through temptation. What are some ways you can develop more prayer in your life?

3. KINGDOM, POWER, & GLORY

"⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. ⁵And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.'"

Exodus 16:4-5 (NKJV)

Prayer is about God's Kingdom. Jesus' own disciples, after spending 3-1/2 years with him, still had a hard time understanding God's Kingdom, and were still looking out for their own importance in an earthly kingdom. We have the same tendency to think life is about us. If we want to see power in our prayers, we must come to the place where our prayers are not about us but about God and His Kingdom. What are some differences in attitude and action between a self-focused person and a Kingdom-focused person?
