



Teach Us to Pray – “Forgive Us Our Debts, As We Forgive Our Debtors.”

Matthew 6:12

“Our greatest need and God’s greatest GIFT are the same thing: forgiveness of sins.” - Pete Greig, How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People

Prayer: an ongoing relational dialogue with God

What is your response to messing up and missing the mark with God?
deny, deflect, duty up, dwell downward, debt forgiveness

What Jesus is NOT teaching in this prayer.

What Jesus IS teaching in this prayer.

Why is this prayer difficult for us?

How do we practice this prayer? (1 John 1:8-10; Psalm 139:23)

- Confess
- Repent
- Receive grace
- Receive forgiveness

We are FREED to pray for and receive FORGIVENESS for ALL our sins.

What does God’s forgiveness do to us? (Matthew 18:21-35; 6:14-15)

- If you can’t RECEIVE forgiveness, you won’t REPRODUCE forgiveness.
- If you take ADVANTAGE of forgiveness, you won’t ADVANCE forgiveness in the world.
- If you don’t live in a place of grace and forgiveness you will not be able to give grace and forgiveness.
- An UNFORGIVING heart is an UNFORGIVEN heart.
- The FORGIVEN are FORGIVERS.

Forgiveness toward others flows from our response to God’s forgiveness toward us.

What forgiving others is NOT.

What forgiving others IS.

Memory Verse:

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Further Study:

Read: Matthew 6:9-13 in your group or with at least one other person.

1. Have someone read it while everyone reads along.
2. Have someone else read it while everyone else listens.
3. Have someone recount the text from memory in their own words.

Discuss:

1. What does the passage reveal about God?
2. What does the passage reveal about humanity?

Act:

1. If this passage is from God, what should change about how you live?
2. Who needs to hear the truth of this Scripture that you can share it with this week? Identify a time this week when you might have the opportunity to share with them.