

The Lord's Prayer

In this prayer that Jesus taught us, God encourages us to believe that he is truly our Father and we are his children. We can pray to him with complete trust, just as children speak to a loving father.

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

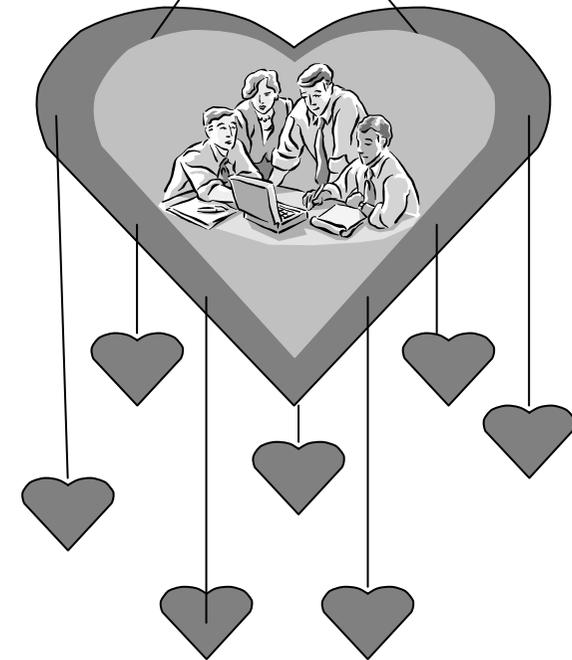
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.

Amen.



Living in God's Fatherly Love

Lent 2007



Lent — the season of 40 days preceding Easter — is a special time for living in God's fatherly love. Lent is great time to begin, continue or strengthen the practice of spending time together as a family or household — in caring conversation and in consciously making God a part of that conversation. We can do this by reading from God's word, the Bible, thinking about what God is saying to us in the particular portion we read, praying together, and passing God's blessing to one another.

Living in God's Fatherly Love is a resource that can help you do that in your family. There are seven themes — one for each week of Lent plus one for the week of Easter. Find some time each week — or each day, if you can manage it — to consider the week's theme. Use the suggestions that suit your family.

Suggestions for families

Here's a five-step plan plus two extra ideas.

♥ The heart is a familiar symbol for love. You may use the hearts in these conversations to help young children, especially, focus on the theme of God's fatherly love.

Begin ♥ Form a heart shape with your hands (thumbs down with thumb pads touching; other fingers curved over the top touching matching fingernails). "Let's talk about living in God's fatherly love."

1. Share with one another the best things and the worst things that have happened in your life today.

♥ Use this heart shape (above) as a 'love lens' to frame the person who is talking.

2. Read a passage from the Bible. Suggestions on the next page.

♥ Draw a heart in the margin of your Bible beside the passage.

3. Talk about the passage: What does it say

- about God's fatherly love?
- about you as someone whom God loves?
- about the good things and bad things in your life today?

4. Pray.

- Send a 'love letter' (prayer) to your Heavenly Father. Tell God why you love him and how important his love is for you.
- Tell your Heavenly Father about the people in your family. Thank him for the good things you have talked about. Ask for his help with the bad things.

5. Bless one another. Say the blessing suggested on the next page.

♥ Use the small blessing heart for the week (separate sheet). Read the message on the heart and give it to another person as a blessing. That person passes on the blessing heart to another person. Continue until everyone has received the blessing.

Make a Loving Heart mobile (separate sheet). At the end of each week add the blessing heart for the week to your mobile.

Pray the Lord's Prayer (from the back of this leaflet). Even young children will learn it if you repeat it regularly. Older children and adults may talk about how the prayer relates to the good and bad things in their day.

Week 1 beginning 25 February.

Bible passage: Matthew 6:9 (extended Matthew 6:7-15)

Theme/Blessing: Your heavenly Father loves you
... you can talk with him.

Week 2 beginning 4 March.

Bible passage: Psalm 27:1 (extended Psalm 27)

Theme/Blessing: Your heavenly Father loves you
... you can trust him.

Week 3 beginning 11 March.

Bible passage: Luke 12:22 (extended Luke 12:22-31)

Theme/Blessing: Your heavenly Father loves you ... he gives you
what you need.

Week 4 begins 18 March.

Bible passage: Read or tell the story of two sons — Luke 15:11-32.
(focus verse Luke 15:20)

Theme/ Blessing: Your heavenly Father loves you
... he welcomes you

Week 5 begins 25 March.

Bible passage: Psalm 126:3 (extended Psalm 126)

Theme/Blessing: Your heavenly Father loves you ... be glad.

Week 6 begins 1 April.

Bible passage: Read or tell the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem —
Luke 19:28-40. (focus verse: Matthew 21:16)

Theme/Blessing: Your heavenly Father loves you ... praise him.

Week 7 begins 8 April (Easter Sunday)

Bible Passage: Read or tell the story of Jesus appearing to Mary —
John 20:10-18. (Focus verse John 20:17)

Theme/Blessing: Your heavenly Father loves you
... you will live with him forever.