



## **FOLLOWING CHRIST'S PATTERN** **Matthew 6:9-13**

In this Scripture reference, Jesus instructed His disciples as how to pray. Following this pattern that Jesus gave, we are going to use Christ's pattern for prayer during our small group time.

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**OUR OPENING TIME: LARGE GROUP TIME:** (Use this group time as opening time of prayer following the two statements below).

**"Our father in heaven Your Name be honored as holy"**

"I give praise to You this day for You are holy. May I declare Your holiness in my life through my thoughts, words, and actions.

I give you praise for \_\_\_\_\_

**"Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."**

May You reign in me, in my life this day. I surrender my day and myself to you. May I be sensitive and flexible to Your agenda for me today."

(Group prayer: submitting ourselves)

**INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE:** (Break into individual or small group of 2 or three).

**"Give us today, our daily bread."**

Give me what I will need for today from Your Word. Speak into my life what will be needed for me and/or for someone else You bring across my path. You know all about this day and what I need for myself as well as for others.

**(Today:** The Lord is going to give you what is needed for someone else. He wants you to speak into another's life. Follow your assignment sheet.)

Also: as you spend time receiving from the Lord, the next part of the Lord's Prayer is crucial:

**“And forgive us our debts (sins) as we also have forgiven. (and given up resentment) against our debtors.” (those who have sinned against us)**

**Matthew 5:23-24 (HCSB)**

<sup>23</sup> So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you,

<sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

In light of ministry to others and using your gifts: our hearts must be right in order to perform outward acts. For my sins and offenses against You are a hindrance for it binds me to the evil one rather than You. I need forgiveness and repent and ask for You to reveal any that may be hidden from me.

(The individual time is for preparing to be an “encourager”. Sometimes our “daily bread” may not be just for us but also for use during the day with others we come in contact with in our lives).

**“I AM AN ENCOURAGER”**



**1 Thessalonians 5:11 (AMP)**

**<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage (admonish, exhort) one another and edify (strengthen and build up) one another, just as you are doing.**

Your “daily bread” today is for the purpose of encouraging one another. In the above Scripture reference, we are exhorted to do just that. In fact, in reading this it reads more as a command...something that we should be doing. The Lord knows our “make-up” and He knows how we need one another. There are times we need the encouragement even more than at other times, and the God given encouragement we receive from others can be a real strength in our lives and can also “put to flight” those lies of the enemy. This word doesn’t speak of “tearing down” one another, but “building up”. God is about “building up” and we should be as well (as much as possible) in the lives of others.

**1 Thessalonians 5:14 (AMP)** The later portion of this verse is what we will focus on today.

**“...encourage the timid *and* fainthearted, help *and* give your support to the weak souls, [and] be very patient with everybody [always keeping your temper].**

Before you receive your “encouraging assignment”, let’s “pick apart” a portion of these verses for better understanding.

The word “edify” in verse 11 literally means “build up.” As believers, we don’t need to be hearing something “new” all the time, but often we need to be reminded of what we already know so we will not forget what God’s Word says and that it is pertinent for every situation.

**In verse 14:**

**“timid”:** this word refers especially to those who were self denigrating (which means to deny the validity or importance of ; belittle), who had a low opinion of themselves.

**“fainthearted”:** means feeble minded; ready to sink without hope

**“weak souls”:** this term here in refers to those tempted to sin; they haven’t yet learned to lean on the Lord as much for their spiritual needs. Until they can do this, they need strong support from other believers. This particularly would refer to a new Christian.

When we take on the role of an “encourager” to someone, the key is sensitivity: sensing the condition of each person and offering the appropriate remedy for each situation. You can’t apply the “medicine” until you know where the wound is.

With all this in mind, let’s move on to your assignment this morning as an **“ENCOURAGER.”**

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(Use Scripture promise cards for this assignment or have individual sheets of paper with a variety of Scripture promises on them for each person to select).



**YOUR ASSIGNMENT:**

Draw out a Scripture promise card from your leader. The promise you have is a word/promise/word of encouragement for someone the Lord has “brought across your path”, and who needs a special word.

As you read this Scripture, follow the directions below. We will have you share your “little encouragements” during our group time. Who knows: it may even be for someone here this morning that needs to hear what the Lord gives to you during this quiet time.

1. In looking at the Scripture promise that you have, briefly describe the situation (condition etc) this person may be going through which this promise Scripture would apply. (If you have trouble with this part you can exchange your promise card for another).

2. Are there any other Scripture references in relation to your “promise Scripture” you could also use to encourage your friend? Write these down.

3. Can encouragement also include some correction as Hebrews 3:13 states?

**<sup>13</sup> But instead warn (admonish, urge, and encourage) one another every day, as long as it is called Today, that none of you may be hardened [into settled rebellion] by the deceitfulness of sin [by the fraudulence, the stratagem, the trickery which the delusive glamour of his sin may play on him].**

Would this be applicable in this situation that you are relating here? If so, how would you handle this? (Hint: remember, we don’t just come in and run a “steamroller” over everybody).

Is it difficult for you to “confront” if this situation would call for that? If so why?

3. Is there anything from your own life experiences that you could bring in to this situation where God has shown Himself strong or provided answers that would further show your friend that God backs up His Word to us/that He is faithful to His Word?

4. If appropriate, how might you follow-up to keep this individual encouraged?

**COME BACK INTO A LARGE GROUP AND OFFER YOUR WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT (MINISTRY) – flowing out from your time with the Lord.**

**DIVIDE BACK INTO SMALL GROUPS :**

In your small groups, may your prayer and sharing time focus on the next two parts of the Lord's Prayer.

**“And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one (Satan).”**

As you show me the snares and traps of the evil one in my life, may I be delivered from those: You have the power.

Do not allow us to be led into/let us not be “sucked” into areas of temptation. Psalm 141:4 (NIV) to pray: “Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil, to take part in wicked deeds with men who are evildoers, let me not eat their delicacies.

**“For Yours is kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen (SO BE IT!)”**

You have control and reign over all things including my life. I declare that this day Yours is the power to answer our requests. It is for Your goodness to be displayed, Your power to be seen in defending us and therefore Your kingdom to be spread throughout the earth.