



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week Four

This is the last week in the Deliver Us From Evil series. Pastor Gary led us through The Lord's Prayer and focused our hearts on the cry for deliverance from evil in all of its forms. If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/signup](http://prov.church/signup) and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray the Lord's Prayer together:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

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### DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: MATTHEW 6.9-10 (NRSV)

*"Pray then in this way:*

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.*

<sup>10</sup> *Your kingdom come.*

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

- These first two lines of the Lord's Prayer are all about God. As we are addressing evil in the world around us, we have to keep our perspective. We pray for God's kingdom to come to earth. The kingdom of God is what the world looks like when evil is forced out. Darkness does not overcome the light. Jesus spoke about the nearness of God's kingdom. Are you seeing signs of a particular evil being forced out today?
- *Pray for the kingdom of God to be made visible through your life today.*

## TUESDAY: MATTHEW 6.11-13 (NRSV)

- <sup>11</sup> *Give us this day our daily bread.*  
<sup>12</sup> *And forgive us our debts,*  
*as we also have forgiven our debtors.*  
<sup>13</sup> *And do not bring us to the time of trial,*  
*but rescue us from the evil one.*

- The second part of the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray is about us. We are asking our Father in heaven to provide for us, to forgive us, and to rescue us. Jesus wants us to cry out to God with our needs and in doing that, we see more clearly who God is. God is our source of life, the One who frees us from the guilt of past sins, and rescues us from evil. When we see God for who God is, we can have the clarity and confidence to look the evil one in the face. I can't beat evil on my own, but the One who feeds me and forgives me can.
- *Ask God for what you need today. Thank God for the forgiveness offered to you through Jesus. Name the evil from which you need rescue.*

## WEDNESDAY: 2 SAMUEL 22.1-3 (NIV)

*David sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. <sup>2</sup> He said:*  
*"The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;*  
<sup>3</sup> *my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,*  
*my shield and the horn of my salvation.*  
*He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior—*  
*from violent people you save me.*

- David sings a song of rescue after an exhausting series of battles. Maybe you feel like you've been through a series of battles against evil forces in this world. You are still here. Can David's song become your response to God's faithfulness? The Lord is our deliverer!
- *Make this song from David your prayer today. Picture the difficulties you face today and pray this prayer in the face of them.*

## THURSDAY: JOHN 1.4-5 (NIV)

*In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

- Pastor Gary said that evil loses its power in the light of love. Jesus is the embodiment of God's love for us. Wherever Jesus is, evil doesn't have a chance. How do you abide with Jesus in your daily life? How do you fight back the darkness?
- *Pray that those you name in your heart would see the light of Jesus Christ drive out the darkness that seems to surround them.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 11.1 (NIV)

*One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."*

- In Luke's account of the teaching of the Lord's Prayer by Jesus, the disciples show a real desire--even a desperation to be able to talk to God. There is an urgency in the question that reveals an awareness of need. In order to battle against evil, we need the voice of God speaking to us. When was the last time your conversation with God came out of true desperation?
- *As you pray the Lord's prayer above, listen to the desperation in your own heart that each line provokes.*

SATURDAY: JOHN 1.43-51 (NIV)

*Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that."<sup>51</sup> He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."*

- Read all of John 1.43-51. In this story, Nathanael is amazed to learn that the one he has been looking for (the Messiah) had seen him. The rescuer sees me? Jesus didn't just see Nathanael, he saw his heart. Pastor Gary shared a Zulu word that translates, "I see you". It's a greeting, a way of saying that I truly see you. Gary said, "When we see each other, we resist evil." It's when we see each other through the eyes of Jesus that heaven begins to open up!
- *Pray for the ability to see every person you encounter today through the eyes of Christ.*

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- See reverse for Small Group Discussion -

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Pastor Gary said, "Evil is not abstract." What do you think that means? Are you ever tempted to see evil as something without a face and name? What are the potential benefits in naming evil as Gary did in his message to us?
- Has praying the Lord's prayer been a part of your practice? Are there lines that you would rather skip? How can you begin to pray this prayer with greater intentionality?