



Lord's Prayer: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever. Amen

Monday: Lead Us Not:

This section of the prayer acknowledges God's Sovereignty in our our lives. "Lead Us" reminds us that he is actively at work in our lives today. God's work in temptation and evil is a debated topic. The Bible makes it clear that God does not cause the evil in our life. However, he will allow it's presence in our lives today. The Bible clearly teaches that God does not tempt anyone: "When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone" (James 1:13-14a). Yet the fact that God does not tempt us does not mean that our temptations are somehow outside his control. God is sovereign over all the affairs of life, including every temptation to sin. Although God does not tempt us, he does allow us to be tempted. The story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness makes this absolutely clear. It is significant to note that Jesus was "led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1). Thus, while Satan was the agent of the temptation, God was the author of the testing. Satan used the occasion to tempt Christ to sin; God used the occasion to demonstrate that he could not sin.

How do you react to verse like these? Do they bring you comfort that God is leading your life - both the good and bad?

The doctrine of God's sovereignty is supposed to bring us comfort. It reminds us that no matter how hard life gets. God is there with us. No matter how much we can't make sense of it. He has a plan for us. The request to actively ask God to lead us away from temptation also makes it clear that we can ask God to remove difficult circumstances from our life. If he choses not to do this, we need to ask him to lead us through them and help us learn from them.

Spend some time thinking about your life today. What trials and temptations are you facing today? Ask God to lead you through and remove them. If you have sins that cause you to doubt God's forgiveness, ask him to reveal what his grace truly is like.

Tuesday: Trial vs Temptation:

In praying that God will not "put us to the test," we pray that God will not make us vulnerable to those powers that rage against God's kingdom. It's important that we understand here the distinction between temptation and testing. Both involve a process, but otherwise they're

drastically different. Testing is what Abraham experienced when God asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac in Genesis 22. He passed this test—exactly as God wanted him to. Passing the test is always what He wants for us as well. Here are some contrasts between temptation and testing:

What are some tests you have faced in life? How did they help you grow in your walk with God?

<i>Temptation</i>	<i>Testing</i>
Not initiated by God	Initiated by God
Triggered by our own evil desires	Brought about by God's desire for us to grow
Purpose: to bring us down and take us away from God	Purpose: to build us up, and bring us closer to God
Based on lies (including half truths)	Based on truth
Designed to lead to death	Designed to lead to life

What are some temptations you have faced in life? What impact have they had in your life?

Pray that CrossWay Church could be a place where God's people would endure tests faithful and avoid temptations. Spend some time praying for that God would use our church to reveal God's grace and forgiveness to the people in our communities and draw people into his kingdom through us.

Wednesday: Deliver Us.

Words like "save" and "trial" and "deliver" are words of crisis. They remind us that to pray this prayer means to be thrust into the middle of a cosmic struggle. At this point the temperature rises within the Lord's Prayer. Things are not right in the world. It is as if something, someone has organized things against God. You pray this prayer faithfully, attempting to align your life to it and the next thing you know, it's like you are under assault. Temptations and trials or test come at us in a variety of different ways. We need to make sure that we realize that these things do not just have a natural component to them. There is a supernatural one as well.

When you hear the word spiritual warfare? What do you think of? Do you think it is real?

The rest of the week, we will look at some of the ways that Satan work in the lives of believers. Before we do this, it is important to look at some of the ways the Bible refers to Satan.

1 Peter 5:8 compares the devil to a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. This is a power image it speaks of his strong desire to harm us. 2 Corinthians 11:14 says that "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." The Bible says that he is sneaky as well.

How do you envision Satan? How do you think he primarily works in the lives of believers?

Spend some time praying that God give you the strength you need to endure challenges faithfully. Pray that God would open your eyes to the cosmic battle going on around you. Who are some of the people in your life that have sinned against you (your family, your friends, your church, broader Christians) today? Ask God to help you forgive them.

Thursday: The Evil One Part 1

We have already mentioned temptation. This is a pretty easy way for us to imagine Satan working in our life. He put things in our path that seem attractive. We underestimate the negative impact they will have in our life. The Bible also talks of the devil working through deception. In Gen 3, he deceived Adam and Eve. He spoke half truths about God and his character. He made them doubt whether or not God had their best interest in mind.

What are some of the deceptions and temptations the Devil has used in your life?

We do not need to fear deceit or temptation. We have the Holy Spirit who can empower us to overcome them. Also, Jesus knows all about our temptations: “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15). Jesus knows about our temptations because he has experienced every last one of them. He experienced them without ever giving in to them, which is why he was able to offer a perfect sacrifice for our sins. This should give us hope that we can deal with sin in our own life but also remind us of God’s grace in the times when we fail to do this.

What difference does it make in your life that Jesus faced the same temptations you do and over come them?

Spend some time asking God to reveal the half truths we can believe about him. Ask Him to Pray that God would help various churches or ministries you know to become places of God’s truth.

Friday: Forgiveness is not excusing or forgetting

Devil in Greek literally means “accuser or slander”. We should not be caught off guard if we experience accusation in our minds and hearts. This is one of the other ways that the

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 127

Q. What does sixth petition mean?

A. “And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one” means:

By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment.¹

And our sworn enemies—the devil,² the world,³ and our own flesh—⁴ never stop attacking us.

And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle,⁵ but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.⁶

¹ [Ps. 103:14-16](#); [John 15:1-5](#)

² [2 Cor. 11:14](#); [Eph. 6:10-13](#); [1 Pet. 5:8](#)

³ [John 15:18-21](#)

⁴ [Rom. 7:23](#); [Gal. 5:17](#)

⁵ [Matt. 10:19-20](#); [26:41](#); [Mark 13:33](#); [Rom. 5:3-5](#)

⁶ [1 Cor. 10:13](#); [1 Thess. 3:13](#); [5:23](#)

devil works in the lives of Christians. He constantly bombards us with accusations trying to weaken our assurance of salvation and bind us up with fear.

What are some of the accusations the devil uses for you? What sins does he try to make you doubt that God could forgive you?

While the Bible makes it clear that the devil will bring these accusations to you, it also reminds us that these accusations carry no weight with God if we have put our faith in Christ.

Revelations 12:10,11: For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.

This means that Satan has told God your worst sin. God's response was to not only ignore him, but throw him out of his presence and remind him that Christ's grace is sufficient for our sins.

Why is this verse and God's reaction so important?

If this is the response of God, we should respond similarly when we doubt if God's grace is really enough. Read Eph 2:8-10 and Rom 5:6-10. These are great ones to use in these situations.

What is the truth that these verses teach us? Why would they be important when we face the Devil's accusations?

Pray that God assure you of his grace. Pray that God would show your unbelieving friends family, neighbors and others in our community that they need the Jesus and his forgiveness.

What is the Heidelberg Catechism? This document was written in 1563. Its name is derived from the city in which it was written. It is a remarkably warm-hearted and personalized confession of faith that was created to teach the basic truths of the Christian faith through a series of Questions and Answers. It is a document that is still used by Reformed churches today.

Why is it included in the prayer guide? The catechism saw value in teaching the Lord's prayer to new Christians and explain its content further. We include it in this prayer guide to give us a wider historical perspective. We also think that its answers are applicable and challenging today.