



*Life Group Growth Sheet*

**Lead Us Not Into Temptation**

Matthew 6:13

**Review**

Throughout our series on the Lord’s Prayer, we have learned that prayer is central to the very reason for which God has created us—to glorify God by thriving in a relationship with him. On this earth, prayer is a key part of that relationship. That’s why we have been emphasizing that *if we can learn to pray well, we can learn to live well*. Although our prayers begin “in the closet”—just between God and ourselves—they shouldn’t stay there, since our prayers shape the way we handle our triumphs and trials, joys and sorrows.

We have also learned that these six petitions follow a clear structure and sequence. The structure is simple: the first half focuses on God’s priorities, and the second half focuses on our needs. But these two halves are closely connected. Our needs are *based on* God’s priorities. We pray for daily bread, forgiveness, and deliverance from temptation—the second three petitions—so we can honor God’s name as holy, serve in his kingdom, and do his will—the first three petitions. Furthermore, these petitions follow a steady sequence, from broad to personal. God’s name being honored as holy is the grand, overarching purpose for his activity in the world. He honors his name by reigning as king of his *kingdom*. His *kingdom* comes when his subjects joyfully do his *will*. To do his will, his subjects need *daily bread*. As they live, they sin so they realize their need for *forgiveness*. And when forgiven, they want to avoid sinning again, so they ask for *deliverance from temptation*.

## Discussion

### *Introductory Discussion*

- What are the most important truths you have learned about prayer throughout this series?
- How does your prayer life shape the way you handle challenges in your life?
- What are some ways you have grown in your prayer life through what you have learned in this series?

### *How Do You Handle Temptation?*

- Discuss the kinds of temptations people face, depending on their particular life circumstances—children, teenagers, single adults, married adults, married adults with children, married adults without children, with grown children, with grandchildren, etc.
- Read James 1:14-15. How does this passage help us understand the nature of temptation?
- Temptation can come in many forms. We often think of temptations to steal, lust, lie, or succumb to gluttony. But a temptation can also be a trial that puts pressure on what we believe to be true about God. What kind of trials do you think are most dangerous for Christians? What kind of trials have you experienced that put pressure on your faith?

- In the sermon, Pastor Jonathan said that we tend to respond in one of two ways to temptation: we either simply give in, or “white-knuckle” it, that is, we rely on our own willpower to overcome the temptation. What is wrong with both of these responses? Which response do you tend to have?

When we pray, “lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,” we are acknowledging our utter helplessness in the face of temptation. Ultimately, in fact, we are asking Jesus to do for us what we could not do for ourselves. This is what we read Hebrews 4:15, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” As our perfect high priest, Jesus can sympathize with our every weakness and temptation.

### *Finding Refuge in Jesus Alone*

- Think about Jesus’ ability to sympathize with your trials—yet without sin. How does that thought impact your approach to trials and temptations?
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-14. What truths about God assure us that God will not put us into a situation in which it will impossible for us not to sin?
- Even though we are helpless in the face of temptation, God provides a “way of escape.” What are some possible “ways of escape” that can help you in your battle against temptation?