



# REDISCOVERING OUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY



## ACT 4 DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITY: THE LORD'S PRAYER

### DEVOTIONAL READING

**Our Father in heaven, holy is Your Name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

"The more I have studied Jesus in his historical setting, the more it has become clear to me that this prayer sums up fully and accurately, albeit in a very condensed fashion, the way in which he read and responded to the signs of the times, the way in which he understood his own vocation and mission and invited his followers to share it. This prayer, then, serves as a lens through which to see Jesus himself, and to discover something of what he was about.

When Jesus gave his disciples this prayer, he was giving them part of his own breath, his own life, his own prayer. The prayer is actually a distillation of his own sense of vocation, his own understanding of his Father's purposes. If we are truly to enter into it and make it our own, it can only be if we first understand how he set about living the Kingdom himself...

When we kneel down, or settle in the quiet chair that serves as our personal place of prayer; when we're walking along, or riding in the train to work; whenever we pray, this is what we are coming to do: to pursue the mystery, to listen and respond to the voice we thought we just heard, to follow the light which beckons around the next corner, to lay hold of the love of God which has somehow already laid hold of us.

We want all this, at our best, not because we selfishly want, as it were, to maximize our own spiritual potential. To think this way would be to import into our Christianity a very modern, materialist, self-centered ideology. No. We want it because we know, in our heart of hearts, that we want the living God. We want to know him; we want to love him. We want to be able to truly call him Father...

[When we pray the Lord's Prayer], we are praying as Jesus was praying and acting, for the redemption of the world; for the radical defeat and uprooting of evil; and for heaven and earth to be married at last, for God to be all in all. And if we pray this way, we must of course be prepared to live this way."

From N. T. Wright's *The Lord And His Prayer*

### ACTIVITY

Spend time each day using the Lord's Prayer as a template for your own praying:

- 1) Consider praying the Lord's Prayer each morning when you wake up. Use it as a tool to focus your heart and energy for your day's activities and work. Pray as both a prayer of supplication ("God, please do these things...") and as a prayer of commitment ("God, as I pray these things, I commit to being a part of the answer to my prayers.").
- 2) Pray one clause of the prayer each day. Use the day's clause as the focus of your own prayers. Spend time in worship, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication based on each theme or clause of the Lord's Prayer. (God as holy Father, the in-breaking Kingdom of God, God's provision for people's needs, God's forgiveness, God's protection and strength to overcome evil in our world)