

## TEACH US TO PRAY

As far as we know, the disciples never asked Jesus to teach them how to fish, preach, teach, communicate, or multiply loaves. They did ask him to teach them how to pray. Was it because they didn't need to make a living, teaching, catching fish, or communicating? Probably not! Perhaps the disciples saw the remarkable relationship that Jesus enjoyed with his Abba and wanted something like it in their own lives. They too wanted to know the confidence, peace, security, and love that Jesus found in this relationship with God.

Perhaps the disciples also noted that prayer was a priority for Jesus; in fact, his whole life seemed to be built around this priority. In crisis, in need, and when perplexed and weary, Jesus could be found praying. Prayer was not an additive to life; it was a way of life for Jesus.

Perhaps too the disciples saw dramatic results as the consequence of the life of prayer that Jesus lived. They did see loaves multiplied, individuals healed, storms stilled, and peace descending on many. Whatever the reason, the disciples apparently believed that praying was one of their most important lessons to be learned.

The benefit of that teaching is available to us today as we reflect on the words and life of Jesus. And the relationship with God that enriched and sustained the life of Jesus is available to us as well. I desire the trust, serenity, confidence, and deep peace that seemed to flow from the life of Jesus at every moment. Teach me to pray.

—Rueben P. Job

Prayer is not primarily saying words or thinking thoughts. It is, rather, a stance. It's a way of living in the Presence. It is, further, a way of living in awareness of the Presence, even enjoying the Presence. The full contemplative is not just aware of the Presence, but trusts, allows, and delights in it.

—From Everything Belongs by Richard Rohr

## **PRAYER GUIDE USING THE LORD'S PRAYER**

- A. OUR FATHER**
- B. WHICH ART IN HEAVEN**
- C. HALLOWED BE THY NAME**
- D. THY KINGDOM COME**
- E. THY WILL BE DONE ( in my life)**
- F. THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH**
- G. AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**
- H. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD**
- I. AND FORGIVE US**
- J. AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS**
- K. AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS**
- L. AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION (a putting to the proof by experiment)**
- M. BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL (one)**
- N. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM**
- O. FOR THINE IS THE POWER**
- P. FOR THINE IS THE GLORY**
- Q. FOR EVER AMEN**