



# Stepping Stones

## Matthew 6:9-13 New Revised Standard Version

<sup>9</sup> “Pray, then, in this way:

- Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be revered as holy.
- <sup>10</sup> May your kingdom come.  
May your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.
- <sup>11</sup> Give us today 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.

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**“Prayer cannot truly be taught by principles and seminars and symposiums. It has to be born out of a whole environment of felt need.” –Jim Cymbala**

When I was in high school, I really wasn't all that fond of reading. I was especially not a fan of English literature and cringed anytime an assignment came up. Fortunately, there were these little yellow and black books at the local bookstore called CliffsNotes which covered many of the works which we were “compelled” to read. They were summaries of the chapters which supplied just enough information to get by in class discussion.

When I think about “The Lord's Prayer,” I am reminded of those short summaries of great works of literature. They didn't provide the story verbatim, but gave a general idea of what was unfolding in the story. Jesus' well-known prayer found in the “Sermon on the Mount” is kind of like that. It doesn't tell us exactly what we should pray or what we should say specifically, but, rather, indicates a format for praying. It is a template you might say and it reminds us why it is that we engage God in such a way.

- 1. Prayer is a conversation which originates in a relationship.**
- 2. Prayer is to be God-centered before it is me-centered.**
- 3. Prayer is an honest expression of our dependence upon God.**

**Prayer Pebble:** Lord, remove my fear or feelings of intimidation over prayer and help it to flow naturally from my relationship with you. Amen.