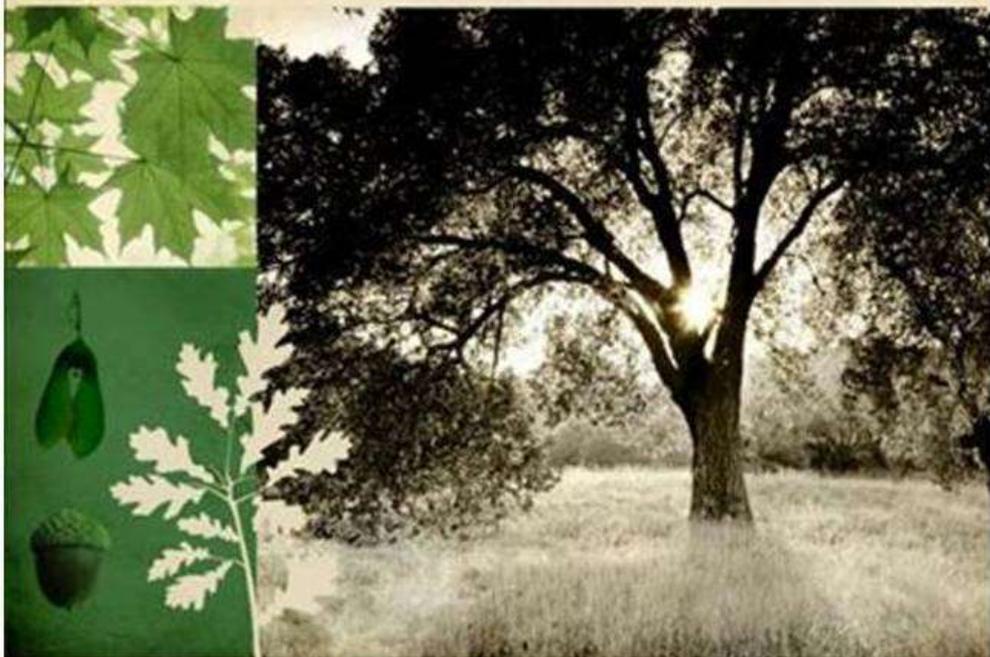


Study Guide for



LIVING PRAYER

*The Lord's Prayer
Alive in You*



DENNIS FUQUA



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This study guide is designed to complement the second printing of book
Living Prayer: The Lord's Prayer Alive in You by Dennis Fuqua

Introduction to the Study Guide

The purpose of *Living Prayer: The Lord's Prayer Alive in You* is not simply to help people know or appreciate the Lord's Prayer more, but rather to increase their relationship with the Lord and their effectiveness for the Lord through praying it. The blessing comes not in the knowing but in the doing (See John 13:17¹). This Study Guide is designed to help you accomplish this. It will help you let the Lord's Prayer become alive in you. This guide is not designed to be used apart from the book.

There are four reasons why I encourage you to approach this study with a group of others. 1) The prayer was originally given by Jesus in the plural. Praying this prayer with a group is probably what Jesus had in mind. 2) You will be enriched by the insights of others as you discuss and pray through this prayer. 3) You will be encouraged as you see that what you have to share about this prayer makes a difference to the others. 4) You will be encouraged to stay on course and finish the course as you commit to this process together.

For each lesson, we will use three kinds of discussion questions or instructions. You are not limited to these ideas. If you have other questions or ideas, I encourage you to use them. We will use the meditation process mentioned in Chapter 2 as our model. The *ponder* questions and instructions are designed to help you better grasp the meaning of the prayer. The *personalize* questions and instructions are designed to help you see the application and significance of the prayer to your life circumstances and situations. The *pray* questions and instructions are designed to direct you into more meaningful prayer.

¹ John 13:17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Get the most out of this study

I encourage you to make four commitments.

- 1) Read through each chapter of the book with an open and receptive heart anticipating that Jesus will teach you to pray more and better.*
- 2) Then look over and interact with the questions and instructions in this Study Guide related to that chapter.*
- 3) Come to the group time each week ready to respond to the questions and instructions.*
- 4) Pray, pray, pray. I cannot stress enough that the primary way you will learn to pray is to pray under the leading of the Holy Spirit letting Him use the Lord's Prayer as His curriculum. Pray it daily in your own private time. Commit to a certain time and an amount of time that you will do this during this study. (For example – For 1 minute after I pour my first cup of coffee in the morning. Or for 5 minutes before I read the newspaper. Or for 10 minutes when I first leave the bedroom. Or from 6:00 to 6:15 every morning.) Pray it with family and friends. And be prepared to pray it with your group.*

Do you remember your first day of school? Whether it was kindergarten with many unknowns or college with its excitement and adventure, you ventured out with your new equipment armed and ready to tackle a new and very important phase of your life. I would encourage you, whether you are a seasoned saint who has walked with the Lord for many decades or a brand new saint who is just beginning this adventure with Jesus, to approach this study in a similar manner. Give yourself to it. See it as a great opportunity to grow and glean. Let the Holy Spirit instruct you through this prayer. And, as much as possible, seek to come at it with a clean slate and an open, hungry heart. I am confident you will not be disappointed.

Some practical tips

Regarding the curriculum: This Study Guide is designed for a 10 week study. This is my strong recommendation. Committing to a 10 week study will give you a very good opportunity to really grow both in your understanding and application of this prayer. Don't worry about exhausting it. You won't!

But, I do understand there may be a need to do a shorter study. If this is your situation, it would be possible to combine some lessons (not chapters). I would recommend that you first combine lessons 9 and 10. After that, combine lessons 7 and 8. If you need it shorter still, combine lessons 2 and 3. Finally, combine lessons 4, 5 and 6. You will then need to select only some of the discussion points, questions and prayers from each lesson.

There is no lesson based upon Chapter 12. But this could be the most meaningful and best chapter. I encourage the leader to use parts of it in the other lessons as he/she sees fit. In lesson 6 I suggest you take some time to understand and pray from the "Praying God's Purposes" charts. This is downloadable as a bookmark from the "Living Prayer - resources" page at www.lppress.net. Why not make copies of this to distribute to each person at the last lesson as a type of diploma?

You have my permission to make two copies of this Study Guide for each book purchased as long as the guide is used solely for the purpose of this study. In fact, each participant should have his/her own copy. Do not sell it or distribute it in any form for any reason.

It will work best to read the upcoming lesson within a couple days of the lesson you just completed. Don't wait until a couple days before the lesson to start reading it. That way you will be able to not only read over the Study Guide and think about your responses, but you will also be able to pray according to what you have learned about that part of the prayer for a few days before the

group discusses it. This may be the most profitable activity you can do. You will have time to pray through at least some of the prayers related to that line in Part 3 and look at the other ways to pray the prayer from Chapter 12. And you may want to incorporate some of them into your weekly times together.

Regarding leadership of the group: You may have a designated leader for the entire study or you may rotate leadership. But either way, please remember that the *depth of meaning for the lesson will rest heavily upon the leader of the group*. It will be important for the leader of the lesson do three things: 1) commit to the process of learning to pray from the Lord's Prayer, 2) commit to be prepared both mentally and spiritually for each lesson, and 3) commit to proper preparation. Think and pray about how to engage people in the group in discussion and prayer. This is the primary responsibility of the leader. The Study Guide helps are there to assist the leader do his/her job. You will also find that the person who leads will end up learning more than anyone else!

Enjoy the process but most of all, enjoy Jesus in the process.

Lesson 1 – Introduction – from Chapters 1-2

Ponder

- 1) What is your first memory of prayer?
- 2) Describe your first exposure to and past interaction with the Lord's Prayer.
- 3) What, from chapters 1-2, has convinced you that it may be worthwhile to be very intentional about praying this prayer?
- 4) From chapter 1, what is the significance of the Matthew account and the Luke account of the Lord's Prayer being "separated by many miles and many months."

- 5) Take turns reading through all the verses referred to in chapter 2 (use the footnotes). Then discuss what Biblical mediation is not and what it is. Why is meditation crucial for this study on prayer?

Personalize

- 1) What is your best desired outcome for this study? Shoot high! “If God did one thing as a result of this study, I pray it would be....”
- 2) Read over the suggestions for How to Get the Most Out of the Study on page 3 of this Study Guide on how to get the most out of this study. Share your willingness to commit to these four suggestions. Write down your commitment to pray this prayer here (suggestion #4)

_____ and share what you have written with the rest of the group.

Pray

- 1) Begin now, in a simple, but heartfelt manner, to ask the Lord to teach you to pray and express your desire to learn from Him. I encourage you to regularly begin your personal and corporate times of prayer with this request.
- 2) Turn to Luke 24:29-31. Make the same requests of Jesus that the disciples did and thank Him that He will do for you what He did for the disciples.
- 3) As a group read and pray through the translation I offered you of The Lord’s Prayer found on page 16 a few times. After the group has said it a few times, take turns praying parts of the prayer, word for word (it is fine to read it), slowly and seek to mean each word you pray/say.

Lesson 2 – Overview – from Chapter 3

Ponder

- 1) Share any new insights you have gleaned from praying the Lord's Prayer this past week.
- 2) Share one thought from this chapter that was new to you. How does that new thought help you treat this prayer as real prayer?
- 3) Which noun (from the first half) or verb (from the second half) has shown you more about who God is?
- 4) Below is a list of creative ways to refer to the Lord's Prayer. Add to this list. Go to the website and send me your favorite ones.
 - This is the essence of prayer, reduced to its minimum that, when expanded, covers (basically) all aspects of prayer.
 - This is a bucket from the river of prayer. It contains the essence but not the full dimensions of prayer.
 - This is "dehydrated" prayer (or "prayer concentrate") that comes to life as we add the "water" of the Holy Spirit.
 - This is a "zip file" prayer that is unpacked when we let the Holy Spirit at the keyboard.
 - This is "Windows based" prayer rather than "DOS based" prayer. Each word and line of this prayer is a "hyper-link" to more divine web pages related to it.
 - For you old video game history buffs, this is a "Mario's World" prayer rather than a "Pong" prayer. You have opportunity to enter new "worlds" rather than just bounce off a wall.
 - This is a scratch and sniff prayer. It is designed to be scratched so that the aroma contained in the prayer will be released and enjoyed.

- This is a “Chia” prayer. It contains form, dirt and seed and when we add the water of the Holy Spirit, it grows!

Personalize

- 1) As you consider this prayer, which line is becoming (at this point) most meaningful to you? Why?
- 2) What is one thing on your “earth” that has become more like heaven?
- 3) What is one way that your life reflects the profile of a “pray-er?”
- 4) If you don’t have the prayer memorized, work on it so that you have it memorized by the third lesson. Use the version provided on page 16 of the book. This will allow the group to say it together. Start by saying it over a few times as a group.

Pray

- 1) Read and pray two or three of the prayers from the “entire prayer” from Part 3 of this book (numbers 1-16, pages 153-166). You may do this together in unison or have just one person read/pray it out loud.
- 2) Have a season of prayer where all you do is express praise and adoration (no requests allowed right now and not even any thanksgiving – just praise and adoration) for what you know about God *from this prayer*. You may want to start your prayers with, “One thing I adore about You, Lord, is
”
- 3) Turn some of the thoughts from the two profiles mentioned in this chapter (what we learn about God and what we want to become) into prayers of thanksgiving, agreement or request.

Lesson 3 – Our Father – from Chapter 4

Ponder

- 1) Discuss the difference between individual prayers in a group setting and corporate prayer (consider the idea of a “symphony” from Matthew 18:19).
- 2) Review the benefits of corporate prayer mentioned in this chapter.
- 3) “Nominate” one of the privileges or responsibilities of being His child mentioned in Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 8:14-21, Eph 5:1, or 1 John 3:1-3 as the most significant and give a reason why it should be voted for.
- 4) Quote the version of the Lord’s Prayer found on page 16 together out loud.

Personalize

- 1) What are some aspects of corporate prayer that have made you uncomfortable in the past?
- 2) Why do you think Jesus told us to address God as “Our Father” when we have many other ways we could address Him?
- 3) Mention one aspect of how God being our Father as shared in this chapter has helped deepen your relationship with Him.
- 4) Share one (or at the most two) areas where your understanding of The Heavenly Father has needed some adjustment.

Pray

- 1) Read over Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 8:14-17 and Ephesians 5:1. Then have a time of prayer where you thank God for the kind of Father He is shown to be in these verses. Practice praying “symphonically” – use short prayers, listening to, agreeing with, and building upon the previous prayers.

- 2) Then from the same verses, have a time of prayer where you ask Him to help you be the kind of child described there.
 - 3) Express thanks to the Lord for one thing your earthly father (or an earthly father figure) taught you about the nature of the Best Father. Then ask The Father to “re-parent you” in any area where you may not have an accurate perspective of Him.
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Lesson 4 – Let Your Name be Holy – from Chapter 5

Ponder

- 1) What do you think is meant by the statement “God isn’t holy because He is good. He’s good because He is holy”?
- 2) Review some of the evidence given that God is very concerned about the use of His name. Can you add more?
- 3) Mention one implication of the fact that profanity involves more than words.

Personalize

- 1) How has the perspective of this line presented here (that it is the first request instead of an encouragement to worship) affected the way you can pray it?
- 2) Share one way your conduct demonstrates that you belong to a holy God?
- 3) What is your default substitute for God? That is, when you depend upon someone or something else to do in your life what only God can actually do, who or what is that? Why do you depend upon them/it?
- 4) What is one way you can be more consistent in treating God as holy?

Pray

- 1) Rehearse to God the ways that He is unique. Allow people to pray the completion of the sentence “Lord, You are the only One who...”
- 2) Read and pray through the following prayer related to this line from Part 3. You may want to pray it as a responsive prayer, with one person reading the regular print and the group responding with the bold print.

Father, I praise You that You have revealed Yourself to us! Specifically, I praise You because You have revealed Yourself to us through the name of Yahweh. **Your Word tells us that You want to be known through Your name and that You are jealous to protect Your name.** Today, I want those things as well. I want to know You more as the great “I AM”. **And through all that we do today, we want to represent Your name well.**

I know some of what Your name means, but I want to have a greater awareness that “You are” with me throughout this day. **Help us to have a better grasp that “You are” not only all that we need, but “You are” everywhere we are.** There is no one else I can say that about. “You are” the only one who is all that I need and always available. **The truth is, “There is none like You!”** Please help me to act like that today. **Please help us to live as though “You are” there, with us in every situation and conversation.** Please let everything about me; my motives, **our attitudes**, my thoughts, **our actions**, and my words, communicate to other people that **“You are” truly in the midst of us.** **Lord, it is an awesome thing to be trusted to represent Your name.** I so often have misrepresented You! I don’t want to misrepresent You today! **Today, as we rely upon You, let us live what the Psalmist expressed when he said** “Whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You.”

- 3) Have a time of prayer when you ask the Father to make His name more holy *to* you and to others *through* you.
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Lesson 5 – Let Your Kingdom Come – from Chapter 6

Ponder

- 1) What are 6-8 characteristics of the kingdom of God mentioned in this chapter from Matthew 13, Mark 4 or Romans 14:17?
- 2) List the five ways mentioned in this chapter that the kingdom comes to us.
- 3) How does the statement “Let Your kingdom come *in* me and *through* me” affect the way someone could pray this line?

Personalize

- 1) What areas of your life do you try to live “Thy” and “my” at the same time?
- 2) Which truth about the kingdom of God mentioned in this chapter brings the greatest amount of excitement and anticipation to you?
- 3) What aspect of the kingdom of God would you most welcome in your life right now?
- 4) Describe a time when the kingdom of God increased in you through one of the methods mentioned in this chapter.

Pray

- 1) Using some of the descriptions of the kingdom of God found in the Matthew 13 parables have a time of corporate prayer asking that His kingdom would come to our (or your) world. Remember to pray “symphonically”.
- 2) Do the same with the descriptions found in Romans 14:17.
- 3) Have someone prepare and read/pray through the prayer titled “The Kingdom from Revelation 11:15 and 22:17, 20”

(number 34, page 179) in Part 3. This may take a little preparation to pray it with full meaning. Notice also that most of the prayer is to be prayed by one person, but there is a section of it that should be prayed by all in unison.

Lesson 6 – Let Your Will be Done – from Chapter 7

Ponder

- 1) Which of the statements from this chapter about God’s will helped you most to understand this line of the prayer?
- 2) How does the discussion on the greatest commandments help us understand God’s will?
- 3) What are some of the large propositions contained in the small prepositions of “to, in, by, and through”?

Personalize

- 1) Share a bit about a time when you intentionally wanted God’s will more than your will. This could be when you first made the decision to become a follower of Jesus, or a smaller, more recent decision.
- 2) What is your response to the following quote, “It is always good to do His will even though it is not always easy.”
- 3) What is one reason why you don’t (and we as people don’t) more automatically and easily respond to God’s will?

Pray

- 1) As you pray together, take turns praying at least one thing that you know, from Scripture, to clearly be God’s will. You may want to begin by saying “Father, I know (or Your word says) that it is Your will to/that/for...”
- 2) Focus specifically on the two “love commands”. Take time to express to the Lord why it is easy to love Him. You may want to begin your prayer with “Today, Lord, I love You because...”

- 3) Conclude by praying, in the deepest way you know how, a prayer of complete surrender to His will no matter what the cost. You may want to use a Scripture like Luke 22:42, Romans 12:1-2, or Hebrews 5:7 as a starting point.
 - 4) Look over and discuss the “Praying God’s Purposes” charts in Chapter 12 (page 141-142) until you understand them. It may look a little mechanical, but catch what is being offered here! Then have a season of prayer using the suggested process. This can be a very meaningful way to pray through the Lord’s Prayer in either an individual or a corporate setting.
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Lesson 7 – Give us – from Chapter 8

Ponder

- 1) What does this line teach us about how often we should pray this prayer?
- 2) Discuss the line “Embracing this truth moves the entire prayer from historical appreciation to present application.” This is found in the “This Day” section on page 90.
- 3) In what ways is “Jesus not only the Supplier, He is the Supply as well!”?

Personalize

- 1) Go to the paragraphs describing what the word “give” tells us about both God and us, beginning on page 91. Which point gives you the most encouragement to pray?
- 2) What are some non-physical needs you know you need to receive from the Lord?
- 3) Share with others your perspective of Agur’s advice in Proverbs 30:8-9.

Pray

- 1) Take some time to thank the Lord for His willingness and

ability to give you what you need.

- 2) Remember the 5 meanings of “daily bread” suggested in this chapter? Think through what you need most in one of these areas. Then humbly, but boldly ask Him to give you what you need.
 - 3) Read and pray the prayer titled “Our Daily Bread – Jesus” (number 47, page 190) from Part 3. Read it slowly and very deliberately in unison. Savor this one.
 - 4) You may also want to discuss and pray the poem at the beginning of the Chapter 8 (page 89).
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Lesson 8 – Forgive us – from Chapter 9

Ponder

- 1) What two experiences regarding sin are true for all of us?
- 2) Discuss the phrase, “Here’s where that tiny but heavy word *as* comes into play.” (Page 107)
- 3) What are the four conditions for forgiveness mentioned in this chapter? How does each one relate to the cross of Jesus?
- 4) What do you think is the significance of the Scriptures which talk about both forgiveness and prayer?

Personalize

- 1) There are several descriptions of what forgiveness is and is not mentioned in this chapter. Which one do you relate to most? Why? Which do you relate to least? Why?
- 2) Do you have a story of how granting forgiveness was a “get to” in your life? If so, tell it to the others.
- 3) Which of the steps of forgiveness do you find to be most helpful?

Pray

- 1) If you have never asked the Lord to forgive you of your

sins. Do it now. Allow the others in your group to be witnesses to your prayer.

- 2) If you know there is someone in your life you need to grant forgiveness to, do it now. If you cannot yet do that, pray that the Lord will give you the grace to do it soon.
 - 3) Pray one or two of the prayers from this line found in Part 3 (numbers 48-50, page 191-193). You may want to select two people to be the readers, have them read/pray through each prayer slowly, allowing the others to agree with them and pray their additions in the process.
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Lesson 9 – Lead us – from Chapter 10

Ponder

- 1) What significant truth about prayer does this line teach us?
- 2) Talk about some of the places we end up when we follow His leadership.
- 3) Using the chart on page 122, talk about the difference between being tempted and being tested.
- 4) What is the significance of James 1:16 being between James 1:13-15 and 17-18?
- 5) How does Scripture bring prayer and temptation together?

Personalize

- 1) Consider the line, “Next to His loving forgiveness, His leadership in my life is one of the best gifts I have ever received from Him.” (Page 118) Share one time when you experienced God’s clear leading in your life. How was that an expression of His love for you?
- 2) When you have faced temptation, what have been some of the “ways of escape” God has provided for you? How do they relate to Jesus Christ being “the Way” of escape? What part did Scripture play in that process?
- 3) How does our understanding of God being “thoroughly

good” affect our praying?

Pray

- 1) Have a season of prayer when you thank the Lord for times when He has led you. Pray relatively short prayers, but use as many specifics in your prayers as you can (i.e. dates, names, occasion, etc.).
 - 2) Pray the prayer in Part 3 titled “Lead us” (number 51, page 194). This is one that could be read/prayed by one person or as a group in unison. Don’t be afraid to change the pronouns.
 - 3) Have a time of prayer for any in your group who may need His specific leadership right now. But, instead of talking about the need to others, have one person express their need directly to the Father in prayer. Have the others listen to, agree with, and add to those prayers. It may seem unusual not to describe the need to others first, but when you express your need directly to The Father, others will be able to catch the nature of your need better than when you express your need to them.
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Lesson 10 – Deliver us – from Chapter 11

Ponder

- 1) How does this line relate to the previous one?
- 2) What is the significance of knowing that Jesus is talking about “the evil one” rather than “evil”?
- 3) Thinking about the distinction between temptation and the tempter, what are the two different ways we are to respond to them?
- 4) What are the two specific steps James tells us (in 4:7) about how to have the evil one flee from you?

Personalize

- 1) In what ways have you been exposed to “the evil one”?
- 2) How has Jesus been your deliverer? In what ways and from what things has Jesus delivered you?
- 3) Describe a time in your life when you have tried to “resist temptation” and/or “run from the evil one”. How did that work out? Now how about a time when you ran from temptation and resisted the evil one?

Pray

- 1) Read and pray through one of the “Deliver us” prayers in Part 3 (numbers 54 or 55, page 198 or 199). You may take turns sentence by sentence, have it be responsive or have one person read/pray it through.
- 2) Have a time when you thank Jesus for His deliverance. Be as specific as appropriate for your group.
- 3) Read (or state from memory) the translation of the Lord’s Prayer found on page 16. Then, allow anyone opportunity to pray from their choice of the lines. It doesn’t have to be in any particular order. Just pray from your heart prayers that the Lord is leading you to pray.

Congratulations!

If you have downloaded the “Praying God’s Purposes” bookmarks from www.lppress.net we encourage you to make sure that everyone has one.

Now, I invite you to keep asking the Lord to teach you to pray and keep listening to His instruction. And ask the Lord who else you should share this process of prayer with. I trust this is not the end, but rather the beginning.