

Activity: The Lord's Prayer from a Different Perspective For Adults and High School Youth



Lifelong Faith Associates (Permission is given to reprint for use by individuals and churches.)

This learning activity center offers adolescents and adults the opportunity to explore the prayer through the eyes of the people of Central America.

Preparation

Print Handout : A Central American Adaptation for participants.

Activity Plan

Introduce the activity by sharing the following in your own words or using the words below:

We pray the Lord's Prayer in context, meaning we bring our own experiences, our own struggles, and our own blessings to prayer. Because each of us is unique, we can all be enriched by the prayers of others. We are going to pray an adaptation of the Our Father written by a group of people in Central America. We will pray with them and journey with them in their own words, then use our words to probe the deeper meaning of each verse. Let's begin.

Read together the words in italics. Pause, then ask the questions and invite everyone to discuss their answers with one other person.

Our Lord, who is in us here on earth . . . How is Our Lord present on our earth? What are the signs of God's presence?

Holy is your name in the hungry who share their bread and song . . . How do the poor make God's name holy by sharing their bread and their song? What does sharing song mean to you? How does hearing that the poor are sharing what they have with others make you feel about your own sharing?

Your Kingdom come—a generous land that flows with milk and honey . . . What strikes you about this image of the Kingdom? Does it match your own vision?

Let us do your will, standing up when all are sitting down, and raising our voice when all are silent . . . What do these people see as God's will for their lives and God's challenge to them? How has God called you to be a voice for the voiceless? For whom do you speak?

You are giving us our daily bread in the song of the bird and the miracle of the corn . . . In what ways does God give you your daily bread? What miracles are you blessed with?

Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of injustice, for burying our dreams, for not sharing bread and wine, love and the land, among us now . . . For what do you need to ask forgiveness? When have you kept silent when you should have spoken? What dreams have you buried? When have you not shared?

Keep us from the temptation of shutting our hearts in fear; of resigning ourselves to hunger and injustice; of taking up the same arms as the enemy . . . What are your biggest temptations? When have you shut your heart in fear? Have you been complacent about the poverty and hunger in our world? How have you taken up the same arms as the enemy? Who is the enemy?

But deliver us from evil. Give us the perseverance and the solidarity to look for love, even if the path has not yet been trodden, even if we fall. Help us to know and rejoice in your Kingdom which is being built for ever and ever. Amen . . . Why do you think the writers link being delivered from evil with asking for perseverance? How do you stand in solidarity with those who lack so much in their lives? How do you rejoice in God's Kingdom—and how are you helping to build this Kingdom? (Janet Morley, *Bread of Tomorrow*).

Why do you think there is such a strong emphasis on justice in this prayer?

After the discussion, read the prayer together once again, this time without pauses or questions.



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<https://www.intergenerationalfaith.com/prayer.html>