

PRAYER

Good Shepherd
Sermon-Based Study Guide

1 Corinthians 10:12-13, Hebrews 4:15-16.

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I. Introduction to this Study

This week we conclude our series about Prayer. The last petition in the Lord's Prayer is: *"And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil"* Matthew 6:13. This petition could be called *The Prayer for Protection*.

II. Connecting with One Another

Share an experience where you really felt the need for God's protection.

III. Study the Text

Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

What is the context of these verses? What is Paul's point in talking about their O.T. ancestors?

The N.T. word translated "temptation" can also be translated "testing" How would you define the difference between the two?

- What might be some of the reasons why Paul warns the Corinthians, *"So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall."* vs.12
- What four encouragements does Paul give in verse 13? Which is most important for you?
- How can you find "a way out" when facing temptation or trials?
- Share an experience where you have been able to stand up under testing.

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

- How do you experience the sympathizing (or empathy) of Jesus? What comfort have you found in His having lived the human experience?
- What temptations of today may not have existed in the time of Jesus?
- Because Jesus knows our weaknesses, we can approach God with confidence. How have you experienced God's mercy and grace in your times of need?



The Message Translation renders Matthew 6:13 this way: *"Keep us safe from ourselves and the devil."* This reminds us that there are things inside us that can draw us away from God's purpose and Presence—temptations. There are also things that can drive us away from God's purpose and Presence. We pray that God will strengthen and help us when we have to "walk through the darkest valley." (Psalm 24:4 NRSV) We pray this prayer for each other as a community of faith.

V. Prayer

- Since The Lord's Prayer begins with the word "Our" he reminded to prayer with others..
- Ask God for opportunities to pray with others.
- Pray that the practices we have tried during this series will remain a part of our lives.

VI. Digging Deeper

One of the ways we want to invite you to dig deeper in this series is to have a practical way to practice prayer. I have found The Lord's Prayer to be a great guide and framework for my praying. I came up this this alliteration to help me in my praying. I built this on *The Message* translation of the prayer. You may find this practice helpful too and I submit it for you to try.

Person *"Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are."*

Purpose *"Set the world right; do what's best— as above so below."*

Provision *"Keep us alive with three square meals."*

Pardon *"Keep us forgiven with You and forgiving others."*

Protection *"Keep us safe from ourselves and the devil."*

