

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

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## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

## MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Luther & Martha Smith | Papua New Guinea

### PRAISE

- for opportunities to speak and share. Recently we spoke in Alisiki and Zenag, where 8 new believers will follow the Lord in baptism.

- The new school year starts with 2 new families training for the ministry and 49 students attending Wau Christian School, where Martha is the principal and a full-time teacher.

### PRAY

- for Martha’s family, as her mother recently passed away.

- for Luther & Martha’s daughter-in-law, who will undergo 3 surgeries in the months ahead. Please also remember her husband, Paul and their 3 children.



Handout: 06/04/23

Study Date: 06/11/23

## The Prayer of Forgiveness

As we continue our study of the Lord's Prayer, one thing that is helpful for us to keep in mind is that in prayer, we are not informing God of anything new. He is omniscient—all knowing—so whatever we tell Him in prayer, He already knows. The Lord wants us to pray for our needs, but our "Father knows [our] needs before [we] ask" (v. 8). In some measure, prayer is more about us than it is about God. He wants us to understand and confess our utter reliance on Him, and prayer is the vehicle for that. Regular prayer reminds us of our dependence on the Lord, which cannot help but move us to be more self-consciously dependent upon Him.

For the Christian, divine omniscience is a comforting truth. Because God already knows everything, trying to hide something from Him is pointless. We can be brutally honest about ourselves, for the Lord already knows us and what we have done even prior to our praying to Him. In fact, He knows us better than we know ourselves (Ps. 139:1). Thus, there is no point in attempting to conceal our sin when we come before Him in prayer. We are to ask our Father in heaven to forgive us our debts, to pardon us for our sins (Matt. 6:12).

Note that there is a qualifier in Matthew 6:12. We ask God to forgive our debts "as we also have forgiven our debtors." This establishes a link between the Lord's forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of others. It is not that our forgiveness of others merits God's forgiveness of us; that would deny that our salvation is by grace alone. Jesus' point, rather, is to underscore how we always stand in the presence of our Creator as forgiven sinners and to make us aware that with God's forgiveness of us comes our responsibility to forgive others. Our Savior warns us that those who are unwilling to forgive others have not understood the free grace of the Lord and therefore may not be true disciples (Matt. 18:21–35). Our forgiveness of others shows that we understand the Lord's grace and mercy and that we should be as generous with our mercy as He has been with His. If we do not forgive those who ask us to forgive them for sinning against us, we are demanding something of them that the Lord does not demand of us. We have sinned so much more egregiously against God than anyone has ever sinned against us and yet God is willing to forgive us. How, then, can we not be willing to forgive those who sin against us?

When others come to us for forgiveness and ask for our pardon, we must forgive them. We cannot continue to hold their sin against them or harbor bitterness in our hearts toward them. Insofar as we are able, we are to pursue reconciliation.

Source: <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/praying-gods-forgiveness>

## KEY VERSE

Matthew 6:12 (NKJV)

*“And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.”*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Matthew 6:9-13; Lamentations 3:40; Psalm 139:23-24**

### Inspect Your Life

1. Have you taken the Lord's Prayer Challenge by memorizing and sharing it? Take some time to read the Lord's prayer and memorize it if you haven't already.
2. Do a spiritual assessment of yourself. Pray Psalm 139:23-24 to God. What did He show you?

**Tuesday: I Timothy 2:5; Proverbs 28:13; Psalm 32:5**

### Confess Every Sin

3. Why is it important that we confess our sins?
4. Why is it impossible to hide our sins from God? Is this a comforting or troubling thought for you? Why?

**Wednesday: Revelation 12:10; Psalm 86:15; I John 1:8-10**

### Believe God Has Cleansed You

5. When we confess our sins, how do we know that God has cleansed us?
6. Why do we sometimes feel guilty even after we have confessed our sins and He has cleansed us?

**Thursday: Matthew 5:23-24; James 5:16; Luke 19:8-9**

### Make Restitution When Possible

7. Why is it important to make restitution to others if we can?
8. What are ways in which you can make restitution through words?
9. What are ways in which you can make restitution through actions?

**Friday: Matthew 6:14-15; Romans 12:19; Hebrews 12:15**

### Release Those Who Have Hurt You

10. How would you define forgiveness?
11. Why is it important to forgive those who hurt you?
12. Have you asked God to teach you to pray like the disciples did in Luke 11:1 when they said to Jesus “Lord, teach us to pray.”? What is He teaching you about prayer?