

Sabbath School Panel — Second Quarter 2026

Lesson 7 (Tuesday)

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

Setting the Tone

This lesson begins with **Matthew 6**, where Jesus gives strong counsel about prayer—particularly prayer offered publicly.

It is important to clarify from the outset:

- This lesson is **not** about judging how others pray
- Any sincere communication between a person and God is to be respected

Our aim is not criticism, but **growth**—learning from how Jesus Himself understood prayer.

Why Does Jesus Sound Critical of Public Prayer?

In **Matthew 6**, Jesus warns against praying in ways meant to be *seen* and *admired* by others.

At first glance, this can sound like a rejection of public prayer altogether—but Scripture clearly shows that **public prayer itself is not the issue**.

Examples of Faithful Public Prayer

- **Jehoshaphat's prayer — 2 Chronicles 20**
The king prays publicly on behalf of the nation. The prayer has a distinct tone: humble, God-centered, and covenant-aware.
- **Jesus' High Priestly Prayer — John 17**
Jesus prays openly, deliberately, and theologically. The prayer reads almost like a psalm—carefully formed, reverent, and instructional.

These examples show that **public prayer can be sincere, appropriate, and powerful.**

The Real Problem Jesus Identifies

The key to understanding Matthew 6 appears at the *beginning* of the chapter.

Jesus warns:

Do not give alms, fast, or pray **to obtain the glory of men.**

The issue is **motive**, not location.

Prayer—public or private—must never be a performance.

Never for the glory of men. Always for the glory of God.

“Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

In the Gospels, the disciples ask Jesus directly:

“Lord, teach us to pray.”

In response, Jesus gives what we commonly call **The Lord’s Prayer**.

This prayer appears in more than one Gospel and functions as a **model prayer**—not merely words to repeat, but a framework that reveals how God’s people have always spoken to Him.

The Lord’s Prayer — Scripture Echoes (Full Text)

Every line of the Lord’s Prayer is deeply rooted in earlier Scripture. Jesus was not inventing new language—He was gathering the voice of Scripture into one prayer.

1. “Our Father which art in heaven”

Isaiah 63:16 (KJV)

“Doubtless thou art our father... thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.”

2. "Hallowed be thy name"

Psalm 111:9 (KJV)

"Holy and reverend is his name."

3. "Thy kingdom come"

Daniel 2:44 (KJV)

"The God of heaven [will] set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed."

4. "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"

Deuteronomy 4:39 (KJV)

"The LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath."

5. "Give us this day our daily bread"

Exodus 16:4 (KJV)

"I will rain bread from heaven for you... a certain rate every day."

6. "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"

Psalm 103:10 (KJV)

"He hath not dealt with us after our sins."

7. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"

Psalm 141:4 (KJV)

"Incline not my heart to any evil thing."

8. "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever"

1 Chronicles 29:11 (KJV)

“Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory... thine is the kingdom.”

9. “Amen” — Faithful Agreement

Christ Himself used **Amen**.

Amen expresses:

- trust
 - agreement
 - confidence in God’s faithfulness
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The ABCs of Prayer

- **Ask**
 - **Believe**
 - **Claim**
 - **Amen** — a declaration of faith
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Final Emphasis

Prayer is not performance.

Prayer is not persuasion.

Prayer is **participation with God**.

Never for the glory of men.

Always for the glory of God.

(cf. Matthew 6)