

Objective The confirmands learn the content of the prayers of Jesus Christ.

Contents Two of Jesus Christ's prayers:
The Lord's Prayer and His intercessory prayer.

CNAC-QA 632–642; 720

Hint

If according to the yearly plan for confirmation instruction two sessions are scheduled for this lesson then all of the material is to be covered. On the other hand if only one session is available only that which the confirmands mention while discussing the homework is to be covered concerning Jesus' intercessory prayer.

1 Lead-in

Ask

What types of prayers do you know?

This question gives the confirmands the opportunity to name various prayers. For example:

- morning prayer
- evening prayer
- grace
- family prayer
- the prayer before the divine service
- the Lord's Prayer
- Jesus' intercessory prayer

Explain

In this lesson one or two of Jesus Christ's prayers will be discussed. The topic of the next lesson then is: How do **we** pray?

2 The Lord's Prayer

Explain

The Lord Jesus taught His disciples to pray. On one occasion He gave them the Lord's Prayer (cf. Matthew 6: 9–13).

Elaborate through questions

– When do we pray the Lord's Prayer?

It is the prayer which we pray before the forgiveness of sins in the divine service.

– Why do we pray the Lord's Prayer?

The Lord's Prayer is the expression of our fellowship among ourselves and with the Lord Jesus. It includes divine adoration, various petitions, it expresses our willingness to reconcile and our trust in God. We also pray the Lord's Prayer to prepare ourselves for the forgiveness of sins and to sanctify ourselves.

Workbook exercise

The Lord's Prayer is now to be discussed in detail. The confirmands are to become aware of what they are saying in this prayer. Afterwards the answers are discussed and supplemented if necessary. Unanswered questions are also to be discussed.

**Our Father
in heaven**

What right have we to call Him "our Father"?

We are God's children. That is why we can call Him 'Father'. As His children we are also permitted to come to Him with all our concerns.

**Hallowed be
Your name**

How can we hallow God's name?

We give all praise and honour to God. We hallow His name by our conduct, by looking up to Him, and through our obedience born out of faith. We do not misuse His name but only use it with reverence.

Your kingdom come

To which kingdom does this refer?

The kingdom of God has already begun to dawn in Jesus Christ and is present in His church. Beyond that there is also a future kingdom of God which will begin with the return of Jesus Christ. It also includes the thousand-year kingdom of peace and the new creation.

**Your will be done
on earth as it
is in heaven**

Why should God's will be done?

God is almighty. His will stands above everything else. In heaven—the realm where God reigns on His throne—His will prevails in unrestricted fashion. This plea brings to expression the desire that God may also govern the circumstances on earth in accordance with His will. By way of this statement we also pray that we may already act in accordance with God's will today.

**Give us this day
our daily bread**

What is our daily bread?

With this statement we are asking for our earthly and spiritual nourishment. This petition also encompasses all our other earthly needs.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors

What is the prerequisite for God to forgive us our debts?

When we have forgiven those who have sinned against us then God will also forgive us our sins (see also lesson 24, section 2). Sins which God has forgiven no longer exist. Let us do likewise: that which has been forgiven is to remain forgiven (cf. also Matthew 6: 13–14)!

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

Does God lead us into temptation?

God permits temptations (such as those of Job and Jesus) and tries those whom He loves (as with Abraham, cf. Hebrews 11: 17). This happens so that we can search our own soul. However, those who are tempted and ask God for strength, wisdom, and help will prevail.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever

What is the meaning of the various concepts in this statement?

With this statement we praise God and His omnipotence and glory.

Amen.

What does “Amen” mean?

This word means ‘so be it’. We once more confirm everything we have brought to our heavenly Father in prayer.

3 Jesus Christ’s intercessory prayer

Hint

If only one session is available for this lesson only the homework concerning the high-priestly prayer is to be discussed here. If two sessions are available the homework concerning this prayer is to be discussed at the beginning of the second session. Afterwards discuss Jesus Christ’s intercessory prayer.

Explain

Before Jesus Christ was arrested He prayed for Himself, His disciples, and His congregation. In the New King James Version of the Bible this prayer is referred to as Jesus’ intercessory prayer (cf. John 17). It is an example of how the Lord Jesus prayed. This prayer is also called the high-priestly prayer.

A student reads aloud

John 17: 3 and 8: “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent ... For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.”

Ask

What must we believe and recognise to receive eternal life?

Elaborate on answers through further questions
A student reads aloud

We believe in the triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe that God has become Man in Jesus Christ for our salvation.

John 17: 9, 15, 20: "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours."

"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one."

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word."

Ask

For whom did the Lord Jesus pray in a very special manner in this prayer?

Elaborate on answers through further questions

The Lord Jesus asked His Father to preserve His disciples, the Apostles, and all of us so that we can withstand temptations and continue to be faithful and loyal. Even at that time the Lord Jesus prayed for you!

A student reads aloud

John 17: 21–23: "... that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us ... And the glory which You gave Me I have given them that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one ..."

Ask

What does it mean to be one and with whom are we to be one?

Elaborate on answers through further questions

To be one means to cultivate the same kind of relationship with God, our heavenly Father, as Jesus Christ had. We make the effort to be one with our blessing bearers and brethren. Love for the triune God, the gospel, and each other allows us to remain intimately connected with one another.

To become like Jesus

A student reads aloud

John 17: 18: "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

Ask

Whom did the Lord Jesus send into the world?

Listen to answers and explain

Jesus Christ sent some of His disciples into the world as Apostles. This commission is still valid today.

A student reads aloud

John 17: 24: "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."

Ask	What is the wish which Jesus Christ expresses concerning us?
Elaborate on answers through further questions	Jesus Christ wants all of God's children to be in eternal fellowship with God and Him in glory. This is also our objective and our greatest wish!
Explain	With these two prayers which we have discussed the Lord Jesus has shown us what is significant to Him. When we pray in this spirit we are praying in accordance with God's will. He will then hear us (cf. 1 John 5: 14). In the next lesson we will consider our personal prayers from this viewpoint.

The main points

I also want to be aware of what I am expressing when I pray the Lord's Prayer!

Homework The confirmands do exercise A of lesson 10 in their workbook.