

# Teach us to Pray: The Lord's Prayer Song

The commentary uses our, us and we as if participating in the song. You might wish to stress that these pronouns refer to Christians as they do in the song itself.

We have written a new version of the Lord's Prayer for you to sing - this can be downloaded from [odbe.org.uk/the-lords-prayer.php](http://odbe.org.uk/the-lords-prayer.php). We hope that you enjoy using it- thank you to Basildon CE Primary School for singing it for us.

You may choose to let pupils read this for themselves; there might need to be a bit of explanation in places.

*Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name,  
your Kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.*

Give us today our daily bread.

*Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name  
your Kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.*

Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us

*Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name  
your Kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.*

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

*Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name  
your Kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.*

For the Kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours  
now and forever.  
Amen, amen, amen.

The song opens with a chorus of the 'your' section of the prayer talking about God.

Still in the major key the music accompanies the asking for all that we need to sustain us. The first of the three 'our' sections of the prayer.

The chorus repeats, emphasising the Kingdom, the holiness of God and God's intention for the world.

A slight change in the music gives this phrase a 'sadder' feel, this is where the prayer calls for 'our' responsibility.

Another repeat, bringing back the dance-like tune, making sure that we remember that everything we do is not just for ourselves but for God's kingdom.

The saddest portion of the song, emphasised by the highest note on the second syllable of 'into'.

The final repeat, gently reminding us that no matter what has gone on God's kingdom is still there and God is still with us.

The coda brings everything together: these things are all God's and we are asking to play our proper part in them. To bring God's kingdom into being, to use power wisely, not abuse it, and to understand that in the end that the wonder of the world is God's doing and not ours. This is when all the instruments finally work together and we can all sing 'amen'.

# Teach us to Pray: The Lord's Prayer Song

Notes for working with the song. This activity is best done after following through either the five worship sessions or the five RE sessions (or both, of course).

Firstly get familiar with the song by singing it and discussing not only what the words say but how the music makes us respond. There is a mixture of slightly jaunty dance-like figures and more smoothly lyrical passages, some of which are in the minor key and so have a sadder feel.

- Does it feel different to sing the song and to listen to it?
- Does the song help us to understand the words of the prayer?
- Does the song bring out the difference between the 'your' sections (about God) and the 'our' sections (about us)?

The title of the song 'Teach us to Pray' is taken from words in the Gospels just before Jesus says the Lord's Prayer:

## From Luke Chapter 11

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

<sup>2</sup> Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say this:

'Father:

May your holy name be honoured;  
may your Kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us day by day the food we need. <sup>4</sup> Forgive us our sins,  
for we forgive everyone who does us wrong. And do not bring us to hard testing."

## From Matthew Chapter 6

Your Father already knows what you need before you ask him. <sup>9</sup> This, then, is how you should pray:

'Our Father in heaven:

May your holy name be honored;

<sup>10</sup> may your Kingdom come;  
may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today the food we need.[a]

<sup>12</sup> Forgive us the wrongs we have done,  
as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us.

<sup>13</sup> Do not bring us to hard testing,  
but keep us safe from the Evil One.'[b]

We have looked carefully at the Lord's Prayer, sung it and seen what it looks like in the Bible. I wonder if we might be able to write our own version of the prayer.

- What does a Lord's Prayer for today look like?

Have a go at writing one.

You can use the same words or different ones, the same pattern of 'yours' and 'ours' or choose a different pattern. Let's see what happens.

# Teach us to pray

## The Lord's Prayer Song

Flute

Our Fa-ther in hea-ven, hal-lowed be your name, your

5 C Dm7 Em7 F6 Em7 F6 Dm/G G C Dm7

king-dom come your will\_ be done on earth as in hea- ven. Give us to-day our

11 Em7 Dm7 C Cmaj7 Dm7 Cmaj7 Dm7 C Dm7

dai\_ ly bread, Our Fa-ther in hea-ven

16 Em7 Dm7 C Dm7 Em7 F6 Em7 F6 Dm/G

hal-lowed be your name, your king dom come your will\_ be done on earth as in hea

21 G Am Em Dm Em Dm/G G

ven. For give us our sins\_ as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us.

28 Cmaj7 Dm7 Cmaj7 Dm7 C Dm7 Em7 Dm7

Our Fa-ther in hea-ven hal-lowed be your name, your

32 C Dm7 Em7 F6 Em7 F6 Dm/G G Am

king\_dom come your will\_ be done on earth as in hea- ven. Lead us not in-

38 Em7 Fmaj7 Em Dm/G G Cmaj7 Dm7 Cmaj7 Dm7

to temp-ta-tion but de li-ver us\_ from e - vil. Our

2

45 C Dm7 Em7 Dm7 C Dm7 Em7 F6  
Fl. Fa-ther in hea-ven hal-lowed be your name, your king-dom come your will\_ be done on

49 Em7 F6 Dm/G G C Dm7 Em7 F6  
Fl. earth as in hea - ven For the king-dom the pow'r, and the glo-ry are yours

54 Em7 F6 Dm/G G Dm7 C Dm7 C Dm7 C  
Fl. now and for ev - er. A - men A - men A - men