

*the*  
**LORD'S  
PRAYER**

STUDY GUIDE

## Movement: “Lead Us”

Matthew 6.5-15

### WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements, upcoming plans for your group, etc...

- Baby Bottle Campaign: New City is again supporting Life Forward Pregnancy Care of Cincinnati in its annual baby bottle fundraiser. Take an empty bottle on Sunday, fill it with coins, cash or checks and return the bottles by Sunday March 1. The funds collected go toward providing free pregnancy tests and life-affirming guidance to women in need. To learn more about their mission, visit [pregnancycareofcincinnati.org](http://pregnancycareofcincinnati.org). cGroups can also help by shopping for mom's at Life Forward's baby registry (<http://www.pregnancycareofcincinnati.org/partner-support/baby-registry/>). These much needed supplies are made available to moms and dads who participate in Life Forward's Ear While You Learn parenting classes.
- Ray Cannata (pastor of Redeemer New Orleans) is coming to Cincinnati. There are 2 great opportunities to learn from him. 1.) We are screening the film “The Man Who Ate New Orleans” (about Ray's attempt to eat at all 700 non-chain restaurants in New Orleans) at the 20th Century Theater on Friday Feb 27 at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 here (<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1220237>). Q&A to follow the film. 2.) Theology Lab - Ray will be doing a 2 part theology lab on Sat Feb 28 from 9-11am. Part 1 - Signs Amidst the Rubble: Church Planting in a Beautiful and Broken City. Part 2 - Gospel Neighboring. RSVP on the City (<http://bit.ly/1yFQ3p0>).

*Opener Question:* Groundhog Day was earlier this month (apparently he saw his shadow; boo for more winter). Which brings to mind Bill Murray's classic film where he forced to repeat the same day over and over again. If you had to repeat one day over and over, which one would you choose?

**Intro:** We're starting the year with a series on The Lord's Prayer. Perhaps no words have been repeated more in the history of the entire world. And yet the familiarity can serve to disconnect us from the meaning. For six weeks we are going to study the Lord's Prayer piece by piece.

## STUDY/DISCUSSION

1. Have you been experimenting with praying the Lord's Prayer? What have you been doing? How's it been going?
2. **Read Hebrews 4:14-16** - What does the author of Hebrews tell us about Jesus? What are the implications of who Jesus is? How might that change the way you approach God when facing temptation or sin?
3. **Read Matthew 6:9-13.** The Lord's Prayer gives us identities as *beloved children* of God, *citizens* of God's kingdom, and *forgiven sinners*. If those things are already true about us, and are given to us in Christ, how does your identity change the way you approach fighting temptation and pursuing holiness in your life?
4. In his book *Holiness*, J.C. Ryle wrote: "*The holy man [or woman] will follow after purity of heart. He will dread all filthiness and uncleanness of spirit and seek to avoid all things that might draw him into it. He knows his own heart is like tinder, and will diligently keep clear of the sparks of temptation.*" Are there areas in your life where you are getting too close to the fire of temptation? What are those things? Are there ways of avoiding them? Are you trying to be strong, instead of being smart or wise?
5. The Heidelberg Catechism summarizes this petition by saying: "*And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one;*" that is, *since we are so weak in ourselves that we cannot stand a moment, and besides, our deadly enemies, the devil, the world, and our own flesh, assail us without ceasing, be pleased to preserve and strengthen us by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we may make a stand against them and not be overcome in this spiritual warfare, until finally complete victory is ours.*" How does that change the way you pray "Lead us not into temptation?"
6. A recent Onion article ran the headline "Law-Abiding Citizen Keeps Herself On Track With Weekly Cheat Day." Print out the article (see next page) and read it together. Do you see anything in the article that relates to your life? Are there attitudes or actions that characterize your approach? How does this contrast with a Christian view of life and living according to God's laws?

7. Divide up between men and women in your group. Take some time to share the temptations and struggles you are facing. When are the times you are most tempted? How can you support one another and fight together?

## **PRAYER**

Take some time to pray together as a group. This series is a great chance to be a little more quick with your discussions in order to leave more time for concentrated prayer at the end. We encourage you to use the Bookmarks we handed out on Sunday to help guide your prayer time. Close your time by praying The Lord's Prayer together.

## Law-Abiding Citizen Keeps Herself On Track With Weekly Cheat Day

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NEW YORK—Saying that sometimes she just needs a little break from her daily regimen, law-abiding citizen Karen Garver told reporters Tuesday that she keeps herself on track with a weekly cheat day in which she allows herself to commit any crime she wants. “I’m pretty strict Sunday through Friday, but come Saturday I tell myself it’s okay to bend the rules a little and improperly dispose of hazardous substances or rob a liquor store,” said Garver, explaining that by setting aside one day a week during which she can evade tax regulations, cause thousands of dollars in property damage, or assault a stranger, she’s able to resist temptation the rest of the week. “Being able to pause from living within the law now and then definitely helps keep me on the right path. Sometimes I’ll make a big day out of it with my girlfriends and we’ll all go out and set a forest fire, and then lead police on a high-speed chase through a crowded residential neighborhood.” Garver said she will let herself off the leash entirely during an upcoming 10-day vacation, however, noting that she doesn’t know when she’ll ever be back to Europe and therefore plans to break whatever Italian laws she pleases.