Week 1 – **Model Prayer** (Nov 19, 2023)

This week we are taking a closer look at the Lord's Prayer. We are discovering how we can learn to pray by using the Lord's prayer as a model for our own prayers?

Getting Started:

- Describe something that you prayed for in the past, that in retrospect, you probably shouldn't have. What do you think would have happened if your prayer was answered?

Discussion Questions:

Read Matthew 6:5-15

1. What two things does Jesus tell us **not to do** when praying? Why do you think Jesus would instruct not to pray in those ways?
2. God will often answer our prayers in one of three ways: YES, NO, WAIT. Why do we find it so difficult to get a NO or a WAIT? What strategy can we employ to not lose heart while we are waiting for God to answer our prayers?
3. The Lord's Prayer was not intended to be endlessly repeated, but to guide us in how we are to pray. Let's think through the three movements of this prayer:
    - **Acknowledge** God – When we acknowledge God, we remind ourselves of his character and his presence. In what ways can you invite God into your situation through prayer?
    - **Align** ourselves – There are often actions, thoughts, beliefs that need to change and come into alignment with God's will. Is there something that is currently blocking your prayers? Which of these would you say that you struggle with most?
        - Lack of Faith
        - Wrong motives
        - Disobedience
        - Mistreating others
    - **Ask** for the things we need – READ Matthew 7:7-11
        - What stops you from asking God for the things you need?
        - What reason does Jesus teach us in this text about God's desire to answer prayer?
4. Discuss ways in which you can include active listening into your prayer time.

Pray for one another.

Additional Reading: **Matthew 6:5-14**

Additional Resource: **Lectio 365**