



Philosophy Club, Week 16: "The Hidden Kingdom: A Dialogue on Prayer and Trust"

Philosopher Focus: Brother Lawrence (1614–1691)

Brother Lawrence was a Christian monk who believed we can talk to God in the middle of ordinary life. Whether he was scrubbing pots or walking to prayer, he believed every moment could be a way to know and love God. He said we don't need perfect words, just an honest heart that turns toward God again and again.

"There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God."

Dialogue Script: Act It Out

Characters

- *Maya* - - thoughtful and curious
- *Dustin* - - wants clear answers, a bit skeptical
- *Zara* - - kind but cautious
- *Brother Lawrence* - - gentle, calm, never gives direct answers, just good questions

Scene: Sitting on a park bench after school. A backpack lies open, snacks are shared.

Maya: Today at church we talked about prayer. But no one explained *how* to do it.

Dustin: I tried praying once. I asked to win my soccer game and to get a dog. I lost, and I still don't have a dog.

Zara: I only pray when something bad happens. Like when my grandma got sick.

Brother Lawrence (smiling): What if prayer is not only about asking for things?

Dustin: Then what is it for?

Brother Lawrence: What if it's like breathing? Not something you perform, just something you do because you're alive.

Maya: So you're saying I can pray without using fancy words?

Brother Lawrence: Yes. Jesus taught a short prayer. The first part is about God. The second part is about us.

Zara: I remember: "Our Father in heaven, holy is your name."

Dustin: Why call God *Father*? That sounds weird.

Brother Lawrence: Jesus wanted us to know God not just as powerful, but as close. Like a parent who loves you.

Maya: And "holy is your name" means remembering how special God is?

Brother Lawrence: Yes. Not like anyone else. Full of light and goodness.

Dustin: What about "Your kingdom come, your will be done"? I don't see any kingdom.

Zara: Yeah. The world feels kind of broken.

Brother Lawrence: Maybe the kingdom starts small. When you forgive. When you tell the truth. When you share your lunch or say sorry.

Maya: So that part of the prayer is asking God to help us live like heaven is real.

Brother Lawrence: Exactly. And then comes the second part.

Zara: "Give us today our daily bread." Like food?

Brother Lawrence: Yes, and whatever you truly need today. Some days it's courage. Some days it's peace.

Dustin: Then comes the hard one. "Forgive us as we forgive others."

Zara: What if they never say sorry?

Brother Lawrence: Forgiveness is not pretending what happened was okay. It's choosing not to carry the weight alone.

Maya: Like giving the hurt to God instead of holding it forever.

Brother Lawrence: Yes. Forgiveness frees your heart to breathe again.

Dustin: And the last line? "Do not lead us into temptation, but rescue us from evil."

Brother Lawrence: Life is full of choices. Some make us stronger. Some lead us far from love. That prayer says, "God, help me stay close to you when it's hard."

Maya: Jesus prayed this too, didn't he?

Brother Lawrence: Yes. The night before he died, he said, "Not my will, but yours." The words of the prayer were in him so deeply that they carried him through the worst day.

Zara: So when we pray this prayer, we're not just saying words. We're learning how to live.

Brother Lawrence: You are joining Jesus in trusting the Father—step by step, breath by breath.

End scene.

Let's Reflect

What part of the prayer feels the most real to you right now?

Is it asking for daily needs? Forgiving someone? Trusting God's will?

Have you ever prayed without speaking?

What might it feel like to pray with your actions instead of just words?

What's one small thing you could do this week to live like the kingdom of God is real?

Maybe it's telling the truth, helping someone, or letting go of a grudge.

Final Thought

Jesus taught this prayer so that we would not feel far from God. In just a few words, we are reminded that we are loved, we are provided for, and we are invited to love others. It is a prayer for every day and every kind of moment.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." – Matthew 6:10

WATCH IT AGAIN

Scan the QR code below to rewatch this week's video and reflect on what stuck with you.

