

*Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life*

## Welcome

Last week we were left with the invitation to pray the Lord's Prayer every day and to reflect on its meaning.

- Share what this prayer meant to you as a child.
- Share something from your experience of the prayer over the last seven days.

## Worship

### **Read Colossians 2: 9 - 16**

- Share one thought from this reading that inspires worship.
- Thank God for the life of forgiveness, liberty and blessing he gives to us.

## Word

### **Read Luke 5:16 & Luke 11:1**

- What makes Jesus' disciples bring this request?

### The Lord's Prayer: TAKE 1

### **Read Luke 11: 2 - 4 and compare with Matthew 6: 9 - 13.**

*Most respectable scholars suppose that both Luke and Matthew were drawing from a now-lost source of Jesus' sayings, labelled 'Q'. If that's right, we don't know how Q expressed the original Lord's Prayer and we only have second-hand edited versions. (You may be curious to read a very early non-biblical version of the prayer in the Didache which you can find here: <http://www.thedidache.com/> See section VIII.)*

- Make a list of the distinctive features of Luke's version of the prayer as against Matthew's.

*Scholars suppose Luke was writing for a mainly Gentile audience. They also consider that Luke's version is likely to be close to the original in Q, whereas Matthew's is an elaboration.*

- Speculate as to why Luke presented the prayer in this way.

## The Lord's Prayer: TAKE 2

*When Martin Luther King gave his legendary 'I have a dream' speech in Washington, he was not composing that beautiful, poetic dream language for the occasion. Someone in the crowd had yelled out something like, 'Tell us about your dream, Dr King!' She'd heard the dream language before - Dr King had been preaching it and developing it in a series of speeches across the USA. Great orators in the days before the internet naturally shared their best material in a range of settings.*

- Could Jesus have taught a form of prayer on many different occasions, and we have a record of only two?
- But if that's true, is the Lord's Prayer **a formal prayer of words** that we must learn and repeat correctly at all costs, or **an overview of prayer's content**?
- If we accept the Lord's Prayer as an invitation to pray and live from a new vision of reality, what are the features of that vision?

*This vision of reality can be summarised as one address, two wishes and three requests...*

- How might each of these aspects shape the way we live?

### Response

- Experiment with using the Lord's Prayer as an inspiration and guide for your **actions** this week.