

Week Beginning: 15th September 2019

Worship Series: #6 in series



living sharing growing

Theme Verse

Our Father...deliver us from the evil one

Matthew 6:13b



Remember This Week

It's true. The devil is a powerful enemy.

Every time we live in our identity as God's children and seek to live out his purpose for our lives – to advance God's kingdom of grace and forgiveness in this world - we will be involved in a dangerous battle. But in the midst of that battle know this truth: The devil is a defeated enemy. Christ has overcome and given you the final victory.



**I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?**

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life;

the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121

Heavenly Father, there is not a moment of our lives that your protective hand and presence is with us. Protect us from the evil one and give us the strength and the power to withstand the forces of the evil one at work in our lives and in our world, that your kingdom may continue to advance into the darkness of this world, bringing life, light, security and safety. Bless this time together and equip us with what we need to resist the evil one and live in accordance with your will and purpose for our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.



1. *Share your highs and lows since you last met with one another.*
2. *Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *Who was your favourite Superhero as a kid?*
4. *How often do you really pray for God's deliverance from evil? Why/Why not?*
5. *C.S. Lewis wrote: 'There are two equal and opposite errors into which our [culture] can fall about devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.' In what ways have you seen evidence of these two errors in the world or the Church and if these errors are followed where do they end up leading us?*

It's the question that Star Wars and the Superhero films deal with every time. Who will win the cosmic battle? Will good or evil prevail? Will darkness or light prove stronger in the end? Who will rescue and protect people from the forces of evil? It's no movie blockbuster but the Bible affirms that there is a cosmic battle that spans both the heavenly and earthly realms, the effects of which are still present today as God's Kingdom advances in the world and our lives. In the last petition of the Lord's Prayer, we recognise the presence of evil in the world and we find strength in the one who alone has definitively won the battle over evil to give us a victory and future that no-one can snatch away. So today we pray for and find comfort in the Father's Protection.

Read John 17:6-19

6. *What phrases/words stand out for you in this reading?*
7. *When someone says that they are praying for you, how does that make you feel?*
8. *What difference does it make to know that Jesus is praying for your protection in this prayer?*
9. *What do these verses tell you about the battle you will face that Jesus intentionally prays for your protection?*
10. *In Matthew 6:13b, some Bible translations use the term "evil," while others use the phrase "the evil one". In what ways does it change your understanding of the prayer to pray it one way or the other?*





Read | Peter 5:8-11

11. *What do these verses tell you about the present activity and purpose of the evil one in the world?*
12. *What response do these verses suggest that you should have to the presence of the evil one and how do you do that practically?*

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

13. *In these verses, Paul talks about the nature of spiritual warfare and how we are up against "the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." How does this passage put this petition in a different light and show you the importance of praying this prayer?*
14. *What do these verses say is your responsibility in this battle and how is that an encouragement to you in the fight against evil in this world and your life?*

Christians don't walk around in an invisible, protective shield. We remain vulnerable in this world. The enemy, Satan, remains powerful (although he has been defeated). He is like a child throwing a tantrum when he has not got his way. He can still rant and rave. He can still lash out and hurt and do a lot of damage. But he will not win the war. Martin Luther writes:

Although Satan uses the evil things of the world as a method to bring our lives to an end, since they all derive from him, that is not the only thing we must pray against. We must pray against the evil one himself, "for he is an enemy who never lets up or becomes weary" (LC, The Lord's Prayer, 109).

The devil will not overcome. When it looked like evil was having its way with him, Jesus prayed on the cross: 'Father forgive them.' He overcomes evil with forgiveness, hate with love. His confidence in the Father's deliverance did not waver. Jesus' final word on the cross is his own version of the final petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" He entrusts himself into the hands of his Father to deliver him, body and soul, from this evil that is being done against him, this evil thing that's happening to him. Three days later the Father vindicated the Son when he was raised to life, triumphing over sin, death and the devil for us. As his dearly loved children, we too can pray with absolute confidence, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Sometimes we can contribute to the darkness of the world without even knowing it. Do you benefit from, participate in, and foster the systems of the world that oppose God's life? Do you operate out of your wounds and brokenness: resentments, the need to win, looking out for number one, living with an attitude of scarcity, prejudice, fear, self-condemnation or hatred? To the degree we do, we deny the victory that Christ has won for us over sin, death and the devil. Remember the Lord's Prayer ends with the Cross, with the Gospel, with Christ. Christ is its author; he is also this prayer's fulfillment. He is the one who delivers us from the evil one and gives us access to the fullness of the Father's blessing and protection. So we pray as Luther says, with trust and confidence that **"In a world ruined by sin, the Lord keeps us from harm and helps us endure the troubles that He allows to come into our lives."**

15. *How can your LifeGroup support you in standing against the evil one, and his evil schemes and live under the umbrella of the Father's protection?*
16. *Spend some time in quiet reflection, asking God to reveal the darkness in your heart or life, and then pray: Gracious Father, deliver me from _____ that my life may not contribute to the work of the evil one but overcome his darkness with the light of your truth, your mercy, your love and the victory you have won for me in your Son, Jesus, my Lord. Amen.*

As you continue to face and deal with evil in your life and the world, may these words from Connie ten Boom be an encouragement to trust the Father's protection in your life!

"When the train goes through the dark tunnel, you don't throw away your ticket and jump off the train. You sit still and trust the driver."



- * Praise God for his protective grace that is with us wherever we go. Thank Jesus for delivering us from sin, death and the devil through his victory on the cross. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you stand strong in the armour of God, advancing his kingdom of light and life in a world of darkness.
- * Pray for those under attack or enduring evil because they bear the name of Christ, that they may not give up but run into the Father's protective embrace.
- * Pray for our NSW Government and members of Parliament as they debate the Abortion Bill amendments in the Upper House this week, that the most vulnerable in our society and those who don't have a voice, may be protected.
- * Pray for protection over each other and your families as you walk in this world that the Father would deliver you from all the arrows that the evil one throws at you.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, the Lord will protect you from all evil. Amen.

