**Badarak: Meaningful Moments**

*45 minutes to a richer worship experience (5th grade and above)*

**6. The Lord’s Prayer (Hayr Mer)**

**Materials Needed**

* For Teacher: This sheet, Pew Book, Bible
* For Students: Pew Book, Bible, hand-out, pens

1. *Write these words on the board:* Our Father*. Under it,* Hayr Mer*. As you write, tell the class:* These are perhaps two of the most famous words in the world. Say them and most people will know that you’re referring to the Lord’s Prayer or *Hayr Mer* (which in Armenian literally means ‘our Father’). Let’s take a more thoughtful look at these. What does the word ‘our’ mean? *Discuss: ideas will probably include belonging to us; a group; a collective; not just “my;” if it’s ‘our’ father, then are we brothers and sisters, children of God?* *Continue:* How about Father? And there are numerous places in Scripture that refer to God as a mother as well (Matthew 23:37 – mother hen protecting Jerusalem; Isaiah 66:13 – as a mother comforts her child so I will comfort you; Deuteronomy 32:11-12 as a protective mother eagle; Hosea 11:3-4 as a nurturing, loving mother), so perhaps we need to think here more of a “parent”? *(strong, protecting, nurturing, provides all we need, mentor, caring, unconditional love)*
2. Well, if ever there was a prayer that summarized our faith and what’s expressed in the Gospels, the *Hayr Mer* is it. Let’s look at the two places we hear about this prayer in Scripture.Turn to Matthew 6:9-15 and Luke 11:1-4.
3. *For the Matthew reading, ask this one question.* What reason does Jesus give for providing this prayer? *(He has heard others babbling on as if the more words the better; your Father already knows what you need! Use these words. If kids ask, “well why pray if God already knows what we’re going to say?” suggest that God still wants to hear from us, speak with us, communicate, be in relationship with us and prayer is the way.)* The Luke reading is a shorter version, almost a summary. Why does Jesus provide the prayer in this instance? *(Interestingly, because the disciples have asked him to teach them how to pray, the only thing they ever asked him to teach them! They have probably seen how it transforms and empowers him…)*
4. Let’s go through this prayer so we’re sure we understand what we’re praying. We pray this so unthinkingly most of the time! *Go through the prayer, asking students to rephrase in their own words. (Notes to guide your discussion:* Our Father who art in heaven: *God is our celestial Father, both with us in spirit and above us in the perfect realm of Heaven;* hallowed be Thy name: *we pray that the entire world will recognize the holy name of God as the one true God of all, the Creator and Ruler of the universe*; Thy Kingdom come: *we pray for the Kingdom of God to take form in the here and now so that we can live in a world founded on faith, hope, and love;* Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven: *we humbly ask God to give us the strength to follow His will, not ours, in living a life that glorifies Him and shows compassion and justice to others*; Give us this day our daily bread: *The word for bread here is Epiousios –found only here! It’s a dense word, suggesting everything we need to exist – includes both physical existence and spiritual existence, perhaps even alluding to Jesus himself (he referred to himself as the living bread - John 6:51) Just as good food nourishes the body, the Good News nourishes the soul. The*[*Bible*](https://www.christianity.com/bible/bible.php)*instructs that “man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (*[*Deuteronomy 8:3*](http://www.christianity.com/bible/bible.php?ver=niv&q=deuteronomy+8:3)*) Christ is the “bread of life” that comes down from Heaven so that “whoever feeds on this bread will live forever” (*[*John 6:48-58*](http://www.christianity.com/bible/bible.php?ver=niv&q=john+6%3a48-58)*);* And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against them: *By choosing to replace resentment with forgiveness, we reflect God’s love and mercy in our actions;* And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: *we acknowledge that our free will brings with it human weaknesses. To overcome those weaknesses, we pray here for God to extend His guiding hand over us and grant us the discernment necessary to steer clear of temptation and sin*.

The Lord’s Prayer focuses our thoughts on what’s important in life by summarizing all that we must do as God’s children, journeying through life together *with* Him and *towards* Him: namely: to revere God, accept His will, know His Word, love each other through forgiveness, and resist evil. And during Sunday worship together, we gratefully sing this prayer – thankful to be able to look to God as a loving parent! (20 min)

1. Church. *An appropriate time to enter church would be right before the Intercessions begin - (p. 34 of the Pew Book; you may leave after the Hayr Mer, following the priest’s blessing to all – p. 41). Have students take their Pew Books and once in church help them find their place in the book.* (20 min)
2. *Back in class, distribute hand-out, allow 2 minutes for students to fill in the blanks and then pray as follows: You say each line and students simultaneously complete it aloud with their words. It will be a symphony!*  (5 min)

**In a Word: The Lord’s Prayer**



*Read each line of the Lord’s prayer and sum up its meaning for you in a single word (or 2-3.)*

*Don’t use any words that appear in the line.*

Our Father who art in heaven, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

hallowed be thy name. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thy kingdom come, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

thy will be done \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

on earth as it is in heaven. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Give us this day our daily bread \_\_\_\_\_\_

and forgive us our debts \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

as we forgive our debtors.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

And lead us not into

temptation, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

but deliver us from evil,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

for thine is the kingdom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and the power \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and the glory forever \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Amen. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_