

# GROWN-UP PRAYERS

## PART 3: LEAD US... NOT!

As we've discussed, the purpose of prayer is to align our wills with God's will—to surrender our wills to the Father, not to impose our wills upon him. After all, Jesus invited us to *follow* him, not to convince or use him.

### CONNECT

How have your prayers changed over the last couple of weeks? How have you incorporated what we've talked about?

### LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Watch the full message sometime this week as a reminder of what you talked about today.

### APPLY

After sharing what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Do you play or have you ever played the “Sin now, ask forgiveness later” game with God? When did that start?
2. In the video, Andy said, “You can't be planning evil and pray to be delivered from it.” Have you ever found yourself doing that? Can you honestly pray: “Lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil”?
3. In the video, Andy said that all of the temptations we experience fall into two categories: protection and gratification.
  - Do you agree? Is there a third (or fourth) category?
  - Which of these categories do you find yourself most often tempted toward? Why?
  - Why do you think self-protection and self-gratification are such bad leaders?
4. Read **Galatians 5:16**. How does following Jesus—staying in step with the Spirit—prevent us from falling into temptation?





## BEFORE NEXT TIME

Set aside some time to reflect on these questions:

1. *What* leads you into temptation?
2. *Who* leads you into temptation?
3. *Why* do you lead *yourself* into temptation?
4. What is *below the surface* (fear, isolation, insecurity, anger, false assumptions, resentment, etc.)?

Understanding the ways we are tempted helps us avoid the situations that lead us in that direction. Ask God to help keep you from the temptation you identified to close your time of reflection.

## PRAY

Take some time to pray individually. Thank God for his provision and ask him to show you if there is anyone you need to pardon. Then have someone close in prayer.

