



## **The Foundation of War**

### **Robert Morris**

**Focus** The face of the lion represents prayer, which is how we war in the spirit. In prayer, we pursue God the Father and get victory when we praise Him. We unburden ourselves when we bring our petitions to Him and pray for protection. Through prayer, we also proclaim God's Word and His kingdom.

**Fun** Would you rather experience one day in the future or one day in the past?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Matthew 6:9–13; 2 Chronicles 20:15–23

#### **1. Pursuit**

The Lord's Prayer, mentioned in both Luke 11 and Matthew 6, begins by telling us to start by saying, "Our Father." Our greatest pursuit in life is the privilege of coming to God the Father. In the Old Testament, many times we think people were talking to the Father, but they were actually speaking to the Son. Jesus is the one who made it possible for us to boldly come to the Father.

#### **2. Praise**

Winning the war in prayer is about praise. In 2 Chronicles 20, the Israelites went to war by singing and praising God. When they did, God caused their enemies to be defeated. The same is true for us today. When we praise God, He gives us victory.

#### **3. Petition**

In 1 John 5, we're encouraged to pray and ask according to God's will. When we do that, the petitions we have asked will be answered. The key is praying His will, not our own will. When we bring our petitions to God, we are able to unburden ourselves from the difficulties in life. If we are feeling grumpy, we should bring our burdens to the Lord in prayer.

#### **4. Protection**

In 2 Kings, the king of Syria was making war against Israel. Every time he made a plan, God revealed that plan to Elisha, and the Israelites were protected and prepared for the attack. When we pray, God protects us and shows us where the enemy is planning an attack.

#### **5. Proclamation**

Our words are powerful. It matters what we say and what we proclaim. We need to agree with God's Word and proclaim it. When we take communion, we are proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** There are many creative ways to incorporate prayer in your group and encourage your members to regularly pray for each other. You could create a group text for the group to share urgent prayer needs. If someone in your group has administrative gifts, you could ask them to be in charge of collecting prayer requests and sending updates to the group. During your group meetings, you could also have people partner up and pray over prayer requests.

#### **Discuss**

1. Have you ever thought of prayer as being a pursuit of God the Father? How does making prayer a relational connection change the way you pray?
2. Have you ever used the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6 as a guide for your prayer time? If so, how has it been helpful? If not, how do you think it could benefit your prayer time?
3. What is the advantage of incorporating praise into your prayer time? What are three things you can praise God for right now?
4. Can you think of a time you brought your petitions to God and it helped you feel unburdened? How does prayer help us be less grumpy?
5. Read Proverbs 18:21. Why is it important to agree with God's Word over your life and proclaim it? What are some things God's Word says about you that you need to proclaim this week?
6. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

## Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- The face of the lion represents prayer. The Lord's Prayer is a guide to show us how to pray.
- Pursue God in prayer, praise Him, and bring your petitions to Him.
- Pray for protection and proclaim His kingdom.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for showing us how to pray. It is our desire to pursue You in our prayer times. We give You praise for who You are and for all You have done. Thank You for Your protection in our lives. Please show us the aspects of Your Word that You want us to begin to proclaim. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** As a leader, it is important to have people praying for you! The enemy doesn't like it when you are a leader. Find people you trust and ask them to take 10 minutes a day to pray for you as you lead your group. There is power in agreement, and you will do better as a leader when you have a prayer covering.