

and raising their eyebrows. “How is that possible?” they asked themselves. “Pharisees keep more rules than everyone else!”

Jesus explained how love fulfills the law. Somebody who joined the crowd asked, “What did I miss?” “Jesus told us about everything,” he was told, “murders, disagreements, about loving your enemies and helping the poor.”

“When you pray, don’t be as the hypocrites are,” Jesus said, “for they love to pray standing in the synagogues

and on the street corners, to be seen by others. If showing off is everything they want, truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. You don’t have to worry about long and elaborate prayers. God is not impressed by many words. After all, your Father knows what things you have need of before you ask him.

This, then, is how you should pray. “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.” (Matthew 6:9-13)

A model for praying

Look up the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9-10, and write it in your own words.

What do you call God?