

# Sunday School Opening

- January 25, 2026
- Morning and Evening Sunrise and Sunset
- Cultural helps
- What we do when asked to pray publicly for a meal

The Apostle  
John, who  
wrote of the  
Son of God of  
whom it is  
said he ran to  
the empty  
tomb.  
John 20:4

January 19, 8 am



# John 20:1-10 NASB

- Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

The Apostle  
Peter  
Who also ran to  
see the  
empty tomb.  
Later writes

January 15, 7:31 am



## 1 Peter 1:8 NASB

- and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

Luke who  
Wrote the Gospel  
And the Acts  
He found a way  
To obediently  
Travel and record  
Across the seas  
Seeing these  
Clouds

January 12,  
7:53 am



Mark,  
whose  
youth  
caught him  
going many  
directions  
at the  
Passover  
from the  
upper  
room to the  
garden.  
Mark 14:51



## Mark 14:51 NASB

- A young man was following Him, wearing nothing but a linen sheet over his naked body; and they seized him. But he pulled free of the linen sheet and escaped naked.

Matthew a called  
disciple who saw the  
dispensation change  
from Moses to Christ



Unfolding  
truth by  
these  
Apostles in  
their own  
voice  
painting a  
picture of  
beauty to  
inspire us.



# CoPilot

Jon, this fan is a beautiful piece of Chinese artistry. The script appears to be traditional Chinese calligraphy, possibly a poetic or seasonal verse, which is common on decorative fans like this. The imagery of plum blossoms, bamboo, and birds also aligns with classic Chinese motifs symbolizing resilience, purity, and harmony.

Represents seasonal harmony

Plum blossoms in winter

Bamboo bends and does not break

Birds, freedom and joy.

## How is this traditional symbol read?

Format of classical poetry, calligraphy, scrolls, fans and older books were read from the right most column top to bottom then moving leftward to the reader. Modern Chinese has adopted the West's right to left.

# Copilot

- The plum blossom is one of those small natural miracles that became a cultural giant in East Asia. Its winter blooming isn't an accident — it's a deep evolutionary strategy — and it's also why the flower became such a powerful symbol in Chinese art, poetry, and philosophy.
-  **Why plum blossoms bloom in winter**
- The **Prunus mume** (often called the Chinese plum or Japanese apricot) has a remarkable adaptation:
- **It sets its buds in late autumn**, before the cold arrives.
- **The buds enter a kind of suspended animation** during the coldest stretch.
- **A brief warm spell in mid-winter is enough to trigger blooming**, even while snow is still on the branches.
- The blossoms tolerate freezing temperatures far better than most flowering plants.
- This means the tree can take advantage of a quiet ecological moment — fewer insects, fewer competing blooms — and be ready for early pollinators.
-  **What this meant culturally**
- Because it flowers when everything else is bare, the plum blossom became a symbol of:
- **Resilience in adversity**
- **Hope in the midst of hardship**
- **Purity and renewal**
- **The quiet strength of endurance**
- In Chinese art, it's one of the “**Three Friends of Winter**” along with **pine** and **bamboo** — all plants that withstand the cold. Your fan includes bamboo, so it's participating in that same symbolic tradition..

If you did come across a thoughtful Chinese let this common language springboard into the message of Christ and salvation.

- Christians too “hear” our friends in Winter, God’s precious and magnificent promises.
- Christians get their promise before it comes to fruition, the bud comes in the fall.
- Christians prepare for the adversity of sinful world, remain in the bud until it is time to bloom.
- The entire message of salvation is not seen in parts but in the whole.
- Tell them that Hebrew is written right to left. “Better captured.”

Now it is time for a good metaphor to see beyond the obvious:

Regarding a calm mind: as if the water in the lake was undisturbed and the night sky reflected in the water showed the stars. One could not see the stars in the water was disturbed, and thus one studying the waves on top of the water might declare that there are no stars!

I do not propose we always have a calm mind, but a ready mind waiting for the right time to see them.

How misguided the observer is to say, “There aren’t any stars” When there are innumerable stars.

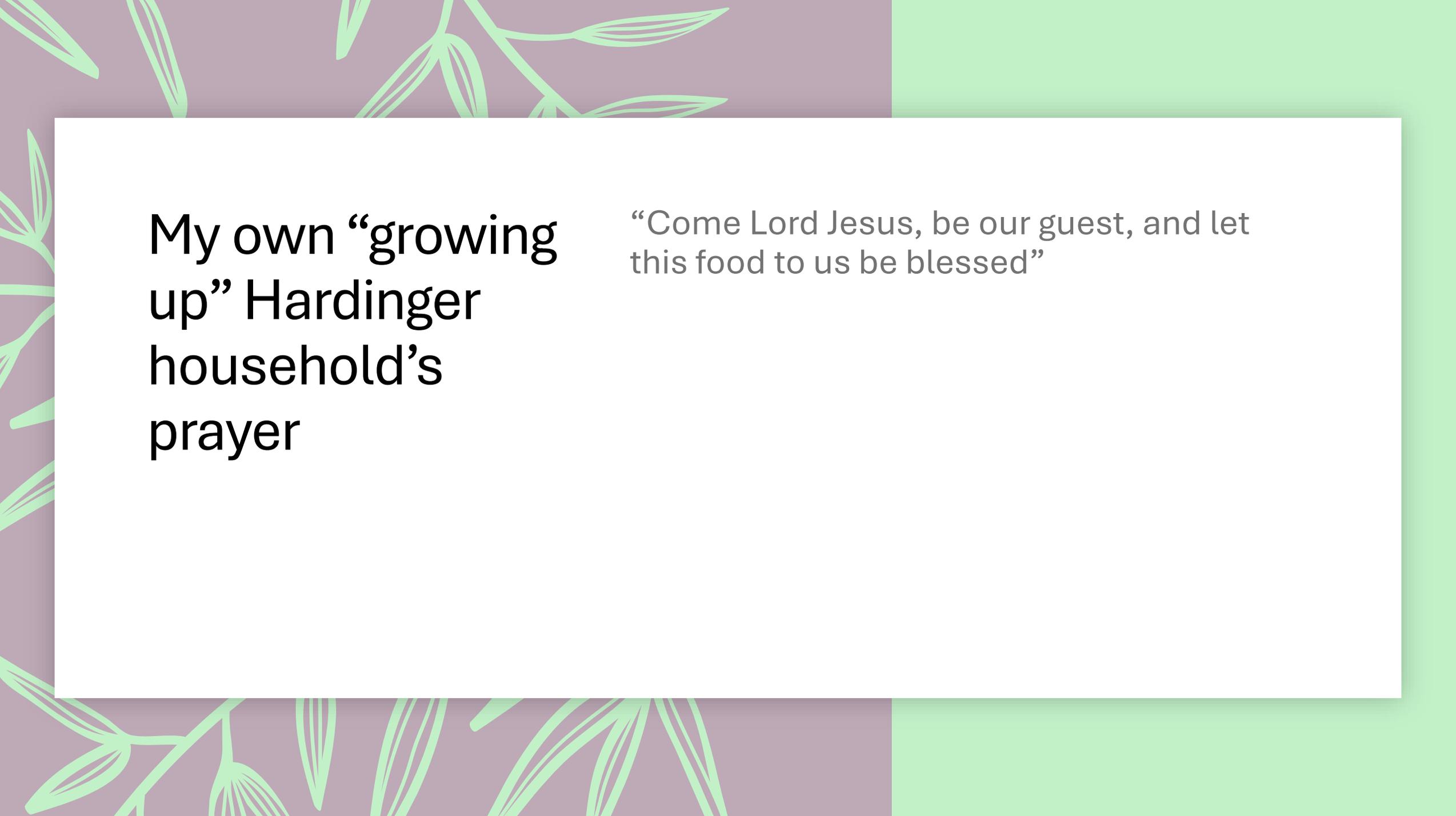
There are creatures whose eye was created to see at dusk, and to hunt at dark. They see better to their advantage, and we Christians are fitted by God to see, even when it is dusk, or dark.

## Examples of giving thanks at mealtime

Community Kitchen offers Grace.

Family gatherings

Ceremonial prayers offered at Mercy over the intercom.



# My own “growing up” Hardinger household’s prayer

“Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let  
this food to us be blessed”

# Another common one

Bless us, O Lord,  
And these Thy gifts,  
which we are about to receive  
Through Thy bounty  
Through Christ our Lord we pray  
Amen

# God is Great

God is great God is good and we thank  
Him for our food.

By His blessings we are fed

Give us Lord,

Our Daily Bread

Amen

# To be Grateful

Give us Grateful hearts  
O Father, for all thy mercies  
And make us mindful  
Of the need of others  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen

# Considering service

Bless, O Lord, this food to our use and  
our lives to Thy service. In Christ's Name.  
Amen

# Kindness and Goodness

Heavenly Father, kind and good,  
We thank Thee for our daily food.  
Amen

## Appeal to hear our prayer

Our Heavenly Father, kind and good,  
We thank Thee for our daily food.  
We thank Thee for Thy love and care.  
Be with us Lord, and hear our prayer.  
Amen.

# A confession of faith in Jesus' blood

Lord, bless this food and grant that we  
May thankful for thy mercies be;  
Teach us to know by whom we're fed;  
Bless us with Christ, the living bread.  
Lord, make us thankful for our food,  
Bless us with faith in Jesus' blood;  
With bread of life our souls supply,  
That we may live with Christ on high.  
Amen.

# Boy Scout Prayers

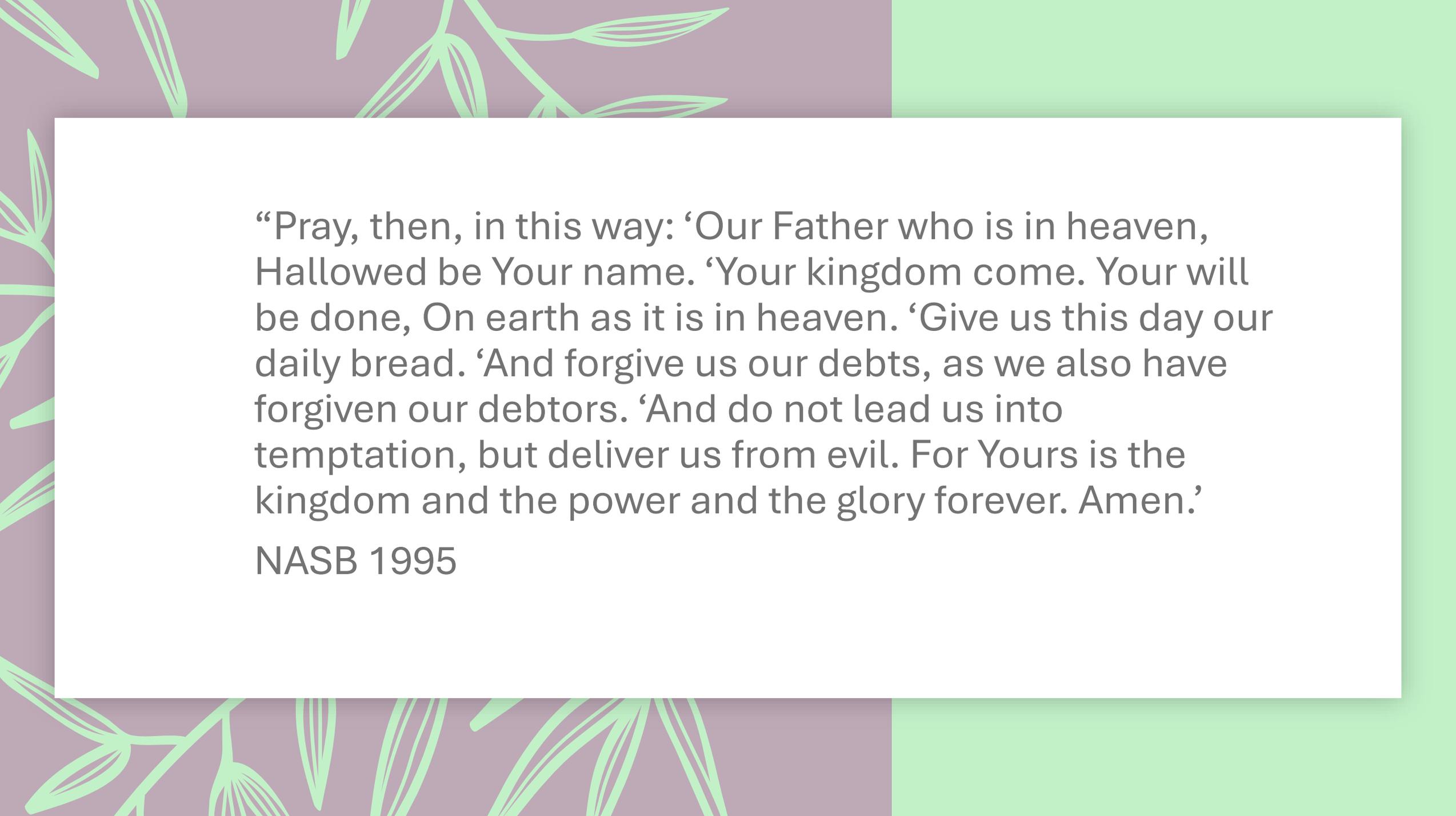
Heavenly Father, help us to see the beautiful things in earth and sky which are tokens of Thy love. Walk with us in the days we spend together here. May the food we eat and all Thy blessings help us to better serve Thee.

For Food For Raiment For Life For  
Opportunity For Friendship and  
Fellowship We thank Thee, O Lord.

Then Brother Jon will interpret this little rhyme.  
Let's go from the physical to the spiritual.

**SELKIRK GRACE**

Some hae meat and canna eat,  
And some wad eat that want it;  
But we hae meat, and we can eat,  
Sae let the Lord be thankit.



“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. ‘Give us this day our daily bread. ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’

NASB 1995

- After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever. Amen.  
KJV



1986

