

HE TEACHES ON PRAYER

CORE PASSAGE: LUKE 11:1-13

CONTEXT

Having called twelve disciples to follow Him, Jesus trained these men in His ways. He performed miracles in their presence, taught crowds in their hearing, and explained His parables to them while leaving others pondering their meaning. Jesus even empowered His disciples and some others to cast out demons and to heal the sick as He sent them out to prepare His way. The disciples enjoyed their success in the field, but after returning to Jesus, they asked Him for one thing—to teach them how to pray.

KEY CONCEPT

**Jesus teaches us how to pray because
He wants to give us good gifts.**

As you examine Luke 11:1-13:

- Recognize that we should pray for God's kingdom, true needs, forgiveness, and protection against temptation.
- Rejoice that when we ask God for good gifts of the kingdom according to His will, He will gladly give them to us.



TIMELINE

Jesus Teaches About and Heals
on the Sabbath (Luke 6:1-11)

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son
from the Dead (Luke 7:11-17)

**SESSION STUDY: Jesus Teaches
About Prayer (Luke 11:1-13)**

Jesus Delivers His Sermon on
the Plain (Luke 6:17-49)

Jesus Forgives a Sinful Woman
(Luke 7:36-50)

Jesus Teaches About Worry
(Luke 12:12-34)

Daily Readings

☐ **Day 1:** Luke 9:1-27

☐ **Day 2:** Luke 9:28-62

☐ **Day 3:** Luke 10:1-24

☐ **Day 4:** Luke 10:25-42

☐ **Day 5:** Luke 11:1-13

☐ **Day 6:** Psalm 138



Scan this QR code
to access this session's
Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 11:1-4

JESUS TAUGHT US HOW TO PRAY FOR KINGDOM PURPOSES.

Number the parts of Jesus's prayer in order.

1 He was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples." **2** He said to them, "Whenever you pray, say, Father, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. **3** Give us each day our daily bread. **4** And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone in debt to us. And do not bring us into temptation."



WORD STUDY

HOLY: Holiness means to be set apart, pure, and perfect. God is completely holy. He cannot sin, and His righteous response to sin is wrath. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus emphasized that before asking for anything, our hearts should recognize God's holiness and our dependence on His mercy.

Key Concept: Jesus teaches us how to pray because He wants to give us good gifts.



Jesus's disciples approached Him with a request: "Lord, teach us to pray" (v. 1). This revealed that they believed Jesus had an intimate relationship with the Father, and they desired to learn how to come to God like Jesus did. Jesus responded by providing them an example to follow.

Jesus began the prayer with "Father, your name be honored as holy" (v. 2). He taught the disciples to call God by the name "Father" to demonstrate that they too were able to approach God in a relational way as a child approaches his dad. While Jesus emphasized the personal nature of prayer, He also emphasized God's holiness. This prayer showed the disciples how their hearts ought to be oriented toward God—with both familial love and humble reverence.

How should addressing God as Father and holy affect the way we approach God in prayer?

Next, Jesus taught them to pray, "Your kingdom come," which is both a request and a declaration. As a declaration, this phrase states that God's kingdom will certainly come. It is also a request that God would bring justice, peace, and righteousness to this broken world while we await His kingdom's arrival.

Jesus's example prayer then turned to daily needs: "Give us each day our daily bread" (v. 3). The disciples were to depend upon God for their physical sustenance and provision, just as Israel had to during their forty-year journey in the wilderness.

How does asking for "daily bread" challenge the way you think about dependence, provision, and contentment?

Jesus then directed the prayer toward reconciliation (v. 4). Forgiveness is a gift from God and should also be extended to others in light of God's mercy toward us. And finally, the request to protect us from temptation shows that we need God's protection and guidance as we live in this fallen, sinful world. Jesus's prayer continues to serve as a framework for how we should approach God in prayer.

GOSPEL CONNECTION



Jesus's life was full of prayer and gives us an example to follow in praying for the right things because He desires to bestow on us the good gifts of God. Jesus's best gift is salvation that He gives us freely when we trust in Him.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 11:5-13

JESUS TELLS US TO PRAY BECAUSE GOD WANTS TO GIVE US GOOD GIFTS.

Underline the response of the friend, and circle the response of our heavenly Father.

5 He also said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, **6** because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I don’t have anything to offer him.’ **7** Then he will answer from inside and say, ‘Don’t bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I have gone to bed. I can’t get up to give you anything.’ **8** I tell you, even though he won’t get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his friend’s shameless boldness, he will get up and give him as much as he needs. **9** So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. **10** For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. **11** What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? **12** Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

PRAYER AND PROVIDENCE: If God is in control and already knows the future, why pray? The Bible teaches that although God has a plan for this world that He promises to fulfill, prayer is often the means God uses to accomplish His divine purpose. Even though God knows the end result, the means that lead to that end result will be accomplished through prayer. In this sense, it is true that “prayer changes things,” and it is also true that God uses prayer to change our hearts so that our will comes into conformity with His.

Key Concept: Jesus teaches us how to pray because He wants to give us good gifts.



Jesus continued His teaching on prayer with two illustrations that painted a vivid image of God's generosity through prayer. Jesus began by asking His audience to imagine a man going to a friend's house in the middle of the night to ask for provisions for an unexpected guest. Understandably, the friend wouldn't want to get out of bed. But because of the man's "shameless boldness" (v. 8), the friend would provide all that was requested.

This story contrasts human reluctance with God's willingness. Jesus was not implying the disciples needed to wear down God or annoy Him until He responded. Rather, Jesus was showing that if we know we can go ask for help from a friend in the middle of the night, then we certainly can have boldness to go before our loving Father and ask for His help. For those who approach the throne of God with boldness and faith, God will happily supply all that is needed.

What can we learn about God's character by contrast with the reluctant friend in Jesus's parable?

Jesus then shared a second illustration. He asked the disciples what human fathers are like. The rhetorical questions Jesus asked paint an exaggerated but helpful picture. No decent human father would give his children something that would harm them if they asked for food. Human fathers know how to give good and even basic gifts to their children. But God the Father cares for His children abundantly more because He is holy and good.

Not only is God able and willing to provide for physical needs, He gives the free and ultimate gift of the Holy Spirit to those who trust in His Son. The Spirit provides all that is needed for a godly life. The children of God can boldly approach God with their prayers because they know God is loving, good, and He delights in giving to His children.

Why should we view the Holy Spirit as chief among God's good gifts to us?

PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

Read Luke 11:1-13. Based on Jesus's model prayer and His subsequent teaching, identify some principles of prayer we should follow.

JESUS'S MODEL PRAYER

JESUS'S TEACHING ON PRAYER

How does your current practice of prayer compare to the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray?

How can you grow in your prayer life?

Key Concept: Jesus teaches us how to pray because He wants to give us good gifts.



HEAD

What are some truths about God's character that can give you more confidence to come to Him in prayer?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Pray through Psalm 138. Praise God for His steadfast love and for how He answers your prayers (vv. 1-3). Thank Him for His promises to us and His forgiveness (vv. 4-6). Pray that God would continue to fulfill His will in your life and in the world (vv. 7-8).

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HEART

What desires in your heart do you need to align with God's will?



HANDS

What are some ways you will practice forgiveness and generosity toward others for God's honor?

