

Praying With Jesus

Luke 11:1-4

1 “...one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray...’
2 And he said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Father...’”

How should Christians Pray?

As Christians, we know that we should pray. But if we are honest, we often struggle to know how to pray. Through the summer months, we have learned much about prayer from the Psalms. But we can learn even more clearly from Jesus!

A Model for Prayer:

Jesus modeled prayer for his disciples—and he gave his disciples a model for prayer. That model is “The Lord’s Prayer,” which is found both in Matthew 6:9-13 and here in Luke 11:1-4. Jesus kindly answers his disciples request to teach them how to pray. And through God’s inspired word, we can learn to pray from Jesus too! Jesus gave his disciples a model or template for prayer. This model provides structure and establishes priorities for our prayers.

Approach:

Jesus teaches us to *approach* God the Father as *beloved children*. The prayer begins, “Father...” This speaks to the wonderful realities of the Christian’s *adoption* into God’s family through the work of Christ! Through Christ’s redemption on the cross, sinners can approach God the Father with confidence, knowing we are cleansed, loved, and delighted in. Through prayer, we approach the Father as Jesus approaches him—for through our union with Christ, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is our Father too! He delights to hear our prayers, he knows our needs, and he loves to give good gifts to his precious children.

Priorities:

God-Focused Requests (Verse 2): Jesus teaches that our priorities in prayer should always begin with God. God is the supreme being in the universe, and he is to be at the center of our lives. We were created for him—to delight in him and glorify him. And our concern for God’s glory and for his kingdom should take center stage in our lives. And it should spill over into our prayers as well.

“Father, hallowed be your name”

“Your kingdom come.”

Human-Oriented Requests (Verses 3-4): And even as we make our needs and requests known to God, he is glorified as we confess his greatness and our neediness. He is our provider God who provides our daily needs. He is our forgiving God who forgives all our sins through Christ’s sacrifice. And he is our protecting God who leads us in “paths of righteousness for his namesake” (Psalm 23).

“Give us each day our daily bread...” (Provision)

“forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.” (Pardon)

“And lead us not into temptation.” (Protection)

Luke 11:1-4 (ESV)

11 ¹ Now Jesus^[a] was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

² And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread,^[b]

⁴ and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

Footnotes:

a. Luke 11:1 Greek *he*

b. Luke 11:3 Or *our bread for tomorrow*

Questions for personal reflection and/or discussion:

1. How is your prayer-life? What are areas you would like to grow in when it comes to prayer? What specific way does Jesus’ model in prayer challenge you?
2. What are your usual priorities in prayer? What do you usually find yourself praying for—that is, what kinds of things make up your prayers and requests? Which of the priorities in the Lord’s prayer challenge you most as you seek to grow in your prayer-life?
3. Consider the God-centeredness of the Lord’s prayer (especially verse 2). What are ways that you sense God is not at the center of your life? What are some specific steps you need to take to reorient your life toward God?
4. Consider relying on God for your “daily bread.” What are ways you need to grow in trusting God to provide your every need?
5. Consider how Jesus frames the request for God to forgive us. He says, “forgive us...for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.” Jesus assumes that the Christian who knows God’s forgiveness will forgive others too. Is there someone you have not forgiven? If so, what is Jesus calling you to do in this passage?
6. Consider the final request in the Lord’s prayer: “lead us not into temptation.” Jesus expects that God’s beloved children will be growing to look more like the holy God—and relying on him to do it. What are your own specific temptations toward sin? Are you fleeing those temptations? Or are you keeping your sin in the dark? What would it look like for you to wage war with your sin? What specific steps is God calling you to take to do battle with your sin? What are ways your fellow church members can help you in the fight?