

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

PRAYER

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

Lord's Prayer (Luke 11: 1-13)

Both Matthew and Luke record Jesus as teaching his disciples what has become known as the Lord's Prayer. Matthew provides a slightly longer version, adding the clauses 'Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven', and 'but rescue us from the evil one'. Other ancient manuscripts of Matthew also add the doxology 'For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever.' In its developed form the Lord's Prayer has become the family prayer of the Christian community, uniting Christians across many languages, across the world, and across the generations.

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of the Lord's Prayer is *prayer*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 11: 1-4; for reflection throughout the week)

Jesus was praying in a certain place,
and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him,
'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.'
He said to them, 'When you pray, say:
Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught your disciples to pray.
Teach us to build our lives
on your way of praying,
that you may reign in us,
to the glory of God, our Father.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Luke 11: 1-13

The Lord's Prayer

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

Perseverance in Prayer

And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? 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!'

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Luke 11: 1-13)

Begin to explore Luke's account of Jesus' teaching his disciples the Lord's Prayer by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray?
- What do you understand by 'hallowed be your name'?
- Why is the first petition 'Your kingdom come'?
- Why is forgiveness so important in this prayer?
- What does this prayer say for us today?

Using your Bible

Compare the Lord's Prayer in Matthew's Gospel.

- Matthew 6: 9-13

Compare Luke's teaching on perseverance in prayer with Matthew.

- Matthew 7: 7-11

Explore forgiveness in Luke's Gospel.

- Luke 1: 76-77
- Luke 5: 17-26
- Luke 23: 33-34
- Luke 24: 45-47

Explore honouring God's name in the Psalms.

- Psalm 29: 2

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Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Luke's account of the Lord's Prayer by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Elements of the Lord's Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer Church of England
- Today's prayer Church of England

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of the Lord's Prayer is *prayer*. Draw on your own experiences of prayer. For example:

- When did you first learn the Lord's Prayer?
- How do you experience prayer?
- What forms of prayer do you appreciate?

What have you learned about prayer?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Luke's account of the Lord's Prayer or by the image of prayer.

- Make a collage illustrating the elements of the Lord's Prayer.
- Make a poster displaying different versions of the Lord's Prayer, including Matthew, Luke, the two forms used by the Church of England, and different languages.
- Display pictures of people praying in different ways.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of the Lord's Prayer or on the image of prayer.



**Liverpool
Cathedral**

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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