

A journey through Luke's gospel with Jesus

CMS Prayer Focus Bible studies

Introduction

The following eight studies were prepared for CMS Prayer Focus 2021. Their purpose is to help you grow in your love for Christ, and to encourage you as you play your part in making him known in this world.

As you examine the setting of Jesus' prayers through the gospel of Luke, we pray that God's Word will give you courage to joyfully walk with Jesus in humble obedience, and that his example will be a stimulus for your own prayer life.

Suggested Bible passages are included. On some occasions, Jesus' actual prayer is not recorded. In those instances, consider what can be learned from the context of the prayer – what kingdom priorities are evident, and how can these priorities direct and influence your own prayers?

You might like to use these studies for personal quiet times, or as the basis for a larger Bible study. Whatever the case, we pray they will be an encouragement to you.

Passage 1 – The Son prays

Read Luke 3:21-22

Questions to consider

1. What is the setting of Jesus’ prayer here? What does the symbolism suggest about the nature of his ministry?
2. What role does the Holy Spirit play in this passage?
3. How can the truths communicated in this passage influence the way you pray for God’s mission in this world?

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Passage 2 – The Son’s priority to proclaim

Read Luke 4:38-44

Questions to consider

1. In verse 42, Jesus goes to a solitary place (literally, ‘a desert place’) to pray (cf. Mark 1:35). What has been occupying Jesus’ time? What do the crowds want from him? How does Jesus’ response reflect the priority of his ministry?
2. How can Jesus’ priorities influence your own Christian walk and prayer life? How can they help you pray for others, especially missionaries who regularly find themselves in demanding situations?

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Passage 3 – The Son’s authority to forgive

Read Luke 5:12-26

Questions to consider

1. Jesus again retreats to a solitary place to pray. What does this solitude suggest about the nature of prayer, and the nature of Jesus’ relationship with his Father?
2. How does the focus of Jesus’ activity change before and after his prayer? What does this passage teach about the nature of God’s kingdom and how can that shape our prayers for mission?
3. How often do you pray for opportunities to bring others to the feet of Jesus? Why not list out some people who don’t yet know Jesus’ forgiveness, and begin praying for them today?

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Passage 4 – The Son’s glorious identity and purpose

Read Luke 9:18-36

Questions to consider

1. Who is Jesus? What did he say must happen to him? What does this mean for those who follow him?
2. What is so good about the good news of Jesus? How would you express that goodness to someone who hasn't experienced it yet?
3. In what ways can our prayers be shaped by the vision of Jesus' glory and by our awareness of the future he secures?

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Passage 5 – The joy of knowing the Son

Read Luke 10:18-22

Questions to consider

1. What particularly brings Jesus joy as he praises his Father in this prayer?
2. How do people come to know the Son? How might this shape your prayers for those around you?
3. As people around the world come to know the Son, what can you “praise [your] Father” for?

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Passage 6 – The Son teaches us to pray

Read Luke 11:1-13

Questions to consider

1. What can you learn about Jesus' concerns for prayer in verses 1-4? How does this influence what you pray for yourself and others?
2. What can verses 5-13 teach us about persistence in prayer? How could you apply this to your own prayers for missionaries or 'gospel-poor' regions?

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Passage 7 – The Son’s plea

Read Luke 22:31-46

Questions to consider

1. What does Jesus pray for Simon Peter and the other disciples? How is Jesus preparing them for what is to come?
2. Notice in verse 39 that “Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives” (especially note the context in Luke 21:37-38). How could this model be useful in your own prayer life in terms of developing patterns of prayer?
3. As Jesus pleads with his Father, how can his prayer help us when we are facing troubles or tough times?

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Passage 8 – The Son’s promise

Read Luke 23:32-43

Questions to consider

1. Considering where this prayer takes place, what do you notice about the focus of Jesus’ prayer and how it shows his primary concerns?
2. Why is this a fitting prayer for the conclusion of Luke’s gospel? How might it instruct the content of your prayers?
3. As you have journeyed through Luke’s gospel with Jesus, have you noticed any patterns or priorities that can help you in your prayer for God’s mission around the world? What are some concrete actions you could take to put what you have learned into practice?

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Next steps

We pray that as you have read these passages, studied them and prayed, God has brought you closer to him.

It is our hope that you may enjoy a rich and fervent prayer life, constantly bringing all your concerns, requests and joys to the Lord. Thank you especially for praying for CMS, God's global mission and our missionaries. Your prayers are precious and, under God, powerful!

More ways to pray

Here are some ways you can keep partnering with mission through CMS!

Receive our publications

Our monthly email update is packed full of stories from CMS missionaries, upcoming events, and helpful resources. Plus, you'll find links to digital versions of our monthly prayer points and CMS Today publications. Sign up at cms.org.au/subscribe.

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