

# Luke 11:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

## Analysis

**Lord, teach us to pray** (Κύριε, δίδαξον ἡμᾶς προσεύχεσθαι, Kyrie, didaxon hēmas proseuchesthai)—The disciples' request reveals the rabbinical context where each teacher had distinctive prayers for his followers. John the Baptist taught his disciples specific prayers; now Jesus's followers desire their own instruction in prayer.

The Greek verb didaxon (teach, instruct) implies systematic, authoritative instruction, not mere casual advice. This request led to the Lord's Prayer (Luke's version being shorter than Matthew's Sermon on the Mount account), establishing the pattern for Christian prayer: address to the Father, hallowing His name, seeking His kingdom, requesting provision, forgiveness, and protection. The setting—**as he was praying**—suggests the disciples witnessed Jesus's prayer life firsthand, compelling them to seek the same intimacy with the Father.

## Historical Context

First-century Judaism had three daily prayer times (morning, afternoon, evening) with fixed liturgical prayers like the Shema and the Eighteen Benedictions. Rabbis often composed distinctive prayers for their disciples. Jesus's emphasis on direct, familial address to God (Abba) was revolutionary in this context.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does your prayer life reflect a desire to be taught by Jesus, rather than relying on formulas?
2. What aspects of Jesus's own prayer habits (solitude, persistence, intimacy with the Father) challenge your current practice?
3. How does addressing God as Father (Abba) transform the nature of your requests and relationship with Him?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ εἶναι αὐτοῦ ἐν τόπῳ τις  
And it came to pass in was he in place a certain  
G2532 G1096 G1722 G3588 G1511 G846 G1722 G5117 G5100

προσεύχεσθαι ὡς ἐπαύσατο εἶπεν τις τῶν μαθητὰς  
praying when he ceased said a certain G3588 disciples  
G4336 G5613 G3973 G2036 G5100 G3101

αὐτοῦ πρὸς αὐτοῦ Κύριε ἐδίδαξεν ἡμᾶς προσεύχεσθαι  
he unto he Lord taught us praying  
G846 G4314 G846 G2962 G1321 G2248 G4336

καθὼς καὶ Ἰωάννης ἐδίδαξεν τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ  
as And John taught G3588 disciples he  
G2531 G2532 G2491 G1321 G3101 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 19:14** (References Lord): Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

**Luke 6:12** (Prayer): And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

**Jude 1:20** (Prayer): But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

**Luke 9:18** (Prayer): And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?

**Luke 9:28** (Prayer): And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

**Psalms 10:17** (References Lord): LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

**Hebrews 5:7** (Prayer): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;