

# 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

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**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

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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	G3588	was	he	in	place	a certain
G2532	G1096	G1722		G1511	G846	G1722	G5117	G5100
προσεύχεσθαι	ὥς	ἐπαύσατο	εἶπέν	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;