



The Essentials: The Gospel of Luke

Session 4: Luke 9:50-12

Opening Collect

Together: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Read: Luke 11:1-12

Opening Thought:

At the end of chapter 10, Jesus begins his ministry in Samaria. While the text describes how Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (9:51), he displays an obvious concern for the Samaritans in that he sends out 72 disciples to preach and heal within the region (10:1-20). Jesus continues his mission to seek, heal, and forgive the lost, even the Samaritans who were considered outsiders to mainstream Judaism. Additionally, Jesus continues to critique the Pharisees and the religious elite within the region. It is within this context that Jesus teaches his disciples to pray. This prayer, which is used by every major Christian tradition, provides the model and guide for Christian prayer.

Discussion:

1. What do you find interesting about the Lord’s Prayer, as it is recorded here in Luke? What do you find unique or noteworthy?
2. Christians often divide this prayer into different categories—praise, petition for daily needs, etc. How might you categorize the different parts of this prayer?
3. Notice the length of this prayer. What do you think its simplicity of it means for those of us learning to pray? What do our prayers need to be like?
4. What kinds of people can pray a prayer like this? The religious elite? The desperate? The sorrowful? The proud?
5. Read vv. 5-13. How does this encourage you to think about prayer—and God?

Check in and Closing Prayer

Luke 11:1-13

[1] Now Jesus 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,

[4] and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

[5] And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, [6] for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; [7] and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? [8] I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. [9] And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. [10] For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. [11] What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; [12] or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? [13] 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!”