

13. Jesus commended the man's faith. What is it about this incident that shows the strength of his faith? What is the importance of faith in prayer?

14. We see plenty of hostility to Jesus from some of the Jews but here in Capernaum what is the attitude of the Jewish presbyters (elders) as they approached Jesus? What can we learn from their example to encourage us in prayer?

Pray

Pray that, as individuals and a church prayer, would be central to what we do as followers of Christ and that we would make it a priority.

Over this month we are asked to pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

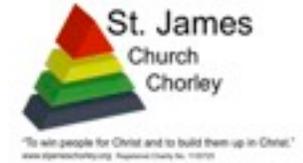
There is a joint youth event at St James on 10th November, please pray for young people to come, to enjoy themselves, and for Paul McNally as he speaks.

Please pray for our outreach as a Church. We have not been able to restart the toddler group and have found that the drop-in did not attract people in the way we hoped. There is clearly a lot of need in the area, and most of all people need the gospel.

*David Phillips
November 2017*

Teach us to Pray

Prayer in Luke's Gospel Week 1



Over the five weeks we will look at most of the teaching and instances of prayer in the gospel of Luke. At the end of four of the weeks we also look at people who cried to Jesus for help and in the other week at Jesus praying for Peter.

Private Prayer

Read Luke 5.15-16

1. Where did Jesus go to pray and what do these verses suggest about whether it was a one off?

2. In **Matthew 6.6** where does Jesus tell people to go when they pray? Where do you normally pray?

3. In Luke 5 Jesus seems to have been escaping the hustle and bustle of the crowds in order to pray. What reason does He give for this in Matthew 6.6 and are there other reasons why solitude in prayer is important or helpful?

Read Luke 6.12-13

4. What was it that prompted Jesus to pray on this occasion? How long was He praying?

5. In addition to your own regular prayer times and church prayer meetings : What situations might lead you to set aside a longer time to pray? In what situations should a church set aside special times for prayer?

6. Jesus went to remote places to pray, if you needed to find time and space to pray in this way what would you do? Where would you go?

Not so Private Prayer

Read Luke 9.16, 18 and 28

7. In the previous verses we saw that Jesus prayed alone. What is different about these three verses?

The gospels also give us an example of Jesus praying openly and at length in front of the disciples (John 17.1-26). We find the disciples doing similar things in Acts.

Read Luke 20.45-47

8. Clearly in Matthew 6.6 Jesus was not telling us never to pray aloud because Jesus himself did pray aloud. Jesus did it himself. What therefore is Jesus warning against here? What do you think this means in terms of how we should or shouldn't pray when with others?

9. What is it that makes it difficult for some people to pray aloud in front of others?

10. At school and in our church groups children seem to find it much easier to pray aloud together than adults often do. Why do you think that is? What can we as adults learn from this?

11. If you find it difficult to pray openly in a group are there things that would help you do it more freely? If you are comfortable praying in this way do you have any advice?

Crying out to Jesus

Read Luke 7.1-10

12. The Centurion, being a powerful man, might have tried to command Jesus to help him just as he describes telling others what to do. What do we learn about him from the attitude of the Jewish presbyters (elders) towards him? How do we see his humility and what is the place of humility in prayer?

The word translated elders means presbyters - later also used of leaders in the Christian community, and the origin of the English word priest before its meaning got distorted!