

12. What did Jesus' prayer spare and not spare Peter from? In other words, what happened, and what might have happened if Jesus had not prayed?

13. What do you think was the long term effect for Peter and his ministry that even though he did deny Jesus his faith did not fail, as Jesus had prayed?

There are similarities between what Jesus describes and what we see in the Book of Job. In both cases Satan was allowed to test or sift faith, but not to breaking point.

Pray

Give thanks to God the faith, love and fellowship in the gospel of others and perhaps pray by name for one another.

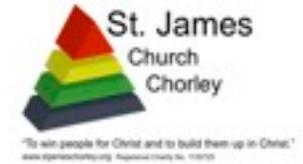
Pray for the Christmas Fair and for opportunities to make contact with people from the area.

Pray for the Development Appeal and, if you have copies of the sheet, use some of the prayer points on the back.

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Teach us to Pray

Prayer in Luke's Gospel Week 3



Saying Grace

Giving thanks to God is very common in the Bible and thank offerings were a key part of the Old Testament worship. There are also examples of people giving thanks before food, what we often call "saying grace".

1. Look at each of the three following examples in Luke's gospel. For each, what was the meal, and what did Jesus do or say?

• Luke 9.14-16

• Luke 22.17-19

• Luke 24.28-30

Matthew and Mark also record the feeding of the 4,000 at which Jesus also prayed a blessing first.

2. Do you say a prayer of thanksgiving before meals and if so why?

3. Do you have any particular customs or words that you use? There are some well known graces, do you remember any? (They tend to be short for a good reason.)

4. At which meals do you give thanks? Would you do it if eating out?

Aside from the gospels we see Paul giving thanks in Acts 27.35.

Giving Thanks

5. Although we have seen examples of giving thanks for food, the New and Old Testament focus more giving thanks generally. What different things do we see from the following passages about the importance of thanksgiving?

• Daniel 6.10

• Philippians 4. 4-6

• 1 Thessalonians 5.16-18

• 1 Timothy 2.1

6. Do you devote time in private prayer for thanksgiving? What sort of things do you give thanks for?

7. In most of the letters of Paul to churches he told them how he gave thanks for them. Do you give thanks for the faith and life of other believers, of others in our church?

8. What particular things does Paul mention as reasons to give thanks in the following passage?

• Romans 1.8

• Ephesians 1.15-16

• Philippians 1.3

Other passages are 1 Cor 1.4, Col 1.3, 1 Th 1.2 & 2.13 and 2 Th. 1.3.

9. The two letters where Paul doesn't mention giving thanks are Galatians and 2 Corinthians. From what you know why do you think this is?

10. In the light of questions 8 and 9 above do people have reason to thank God for your faith and love?

Jesus prays for Peter

In the other studies we look at four incidents where people cry out to Jesus but this is one in Luke where we find Jesus praying for Peter.

Read Luke 22.31-34

11. What had Jesus prayed for Peter, and why did he need to pray this?