

PRAYER

Good Shepherd
Sermon-Based Study Guide

Luke 11:1-2, Romans 8:14-17 | January 18th, 2026

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I. Introduction to this Study

Of all the things the disciples saw Jesus say and do, his teaching, miracles, authority, and compassion, there is only one thing they explicitly ask him to teach them: how to pray. In Luke 11, they don't ask for better sermons or greater power, but for prayer. Something about Jesus' prayer life convinced them that prayer was central to his relationship with God.

In response, Jesus does not give them a technique or a formula to repeat. Instead, he offers a model, a way of approaching God. And he begins with two words that reshape everything: "Our Father." This week, we focus on the opening of the Lord's Prayer and what it reveals about who God is, who we are, and how we are invited to pray.

II. Connecting with One Another

Have you ever seen someone who was so good at something that you wished they would teach you? What was it?

III. Study the Text

Read Luke 11:1–2

- Why do you think the disciples were so compelled to ask Jesus to teach them how to pray?
- What does it suggest about prayer that Jesus responds by offering a model rather than a method?
- Why do you think Jesus begins the prayer by addressing God relationally rather than descriptively?

Read Romans 8:14–17

- According to Paul, what does it mean to be adopted into God's family?
- How is being God's child different from being God's servant—or does it include both?
- What does this passage say about our identity, security, and inheritance as believers?



Reflect and Respond

- How has your understanding of God as Father been shaped—positively or negatively—by your own experiences?
- In what ways do you struggle more with trusting God’s closeness, or honoring God’s holiness?
- What would it look like this week to pray with both confidence and reverence?

V. Prayer/Digging Deeper

Jesus begins the Lord’s Prayer by shaping *how* we approach God before we ask for anything. One simple way to practice this is the **ACTS** pattern, which helps us pray with both intimacy and reverence.

Set aside **10-15 minutes** this week and move through the four movements below. Don’t rush.

A — Adoration (Begin by praising God for who He is)

- Address God as Father—close and loving.
- Name a few attributes of God.

“Father, you are good and gracious. You are near, and you are holy.”

C — Confession (Honestly acknowledge where you’ve fallen short)

- Confess sins of action or inaction.
- Name where you’ve relied on yourself rather than trusting God.
- Receive His forgiveness with humility.

“Father, forgive me for the ways I’ve trusted myself more than you.”

T — Thanksgiving (Thank God for His gifts and grace)

- Thank Him for being your Father and welcoming you into His family.
- Name specific things you’re grateful for.

“Thank you for calling me your child and caring for me.”

S — Supplication (Bring your requests to God)

- Ask for daily needs, guidance, and strength.
- Pray for others.
- Trust your Father with what lies ahead.

“Father, I trust you with what I need today.”

