

## Day One

*And it came about that while He was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." -Luke 11:1*

### Lord, Teach Us To Pray

Children can give the most interesting prayers, you'll have to admit.

*Dear God,  
please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now.*

*Amanda*

*Dear God,  
Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up.*

*Joyce*

*Dear God,  
I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.*

*Nancy*

*Dear God,  
my Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go?  
Love, Dennis*

**W**e aren't born with the ability to pray. We must be taught. Our verse today, and our study, begins with the most basic of requests? How do we pray? Someone teach me, please!

**H**ow many types of prayers are there, anyway? If we limit ourselves to only those we give in "church" or at meals, we are losing out on the greatest benefit we have, except for salvation itself.

**T**he disciples saw something in Jesus and also something in those who followed John the Baptist. It was something special. We don't know what it looked like, but we can observe the characteristics of those who did pray, if we are willing to put in the effort and search out the subject.

**I**s there a formula to follow? We might get that impression if we continue on in Luke 11. But, what we know of as "The Lord's Prayer" might be better described as the Lord's Model Prayer. It is just the beginning of what a prayer life is all about. In those three verses, which can easily be read and

recited in a matter of less than a minute by almost anyone, are the elements of good prayer. Yet, we should not think to limit ourselves by this content.

**J**ust as Jesus used this as a starting point with his disciples, we must view this as the very basics of the 'nuts and bolts' of prayer. It is only a beginning.

**I**n the next thirty days we shall look at many aspects of prayer. You might think that thirty-one days would be more than enough for an exhaustive study of prayer. Yet, when we are finished, you will see that we have only just begun the journey together. Just as graduation is called a 'commencement', when we have finished our thirty days of studying prayer, we will then commence on our journey that we have no concept where it will lead, except we hope, closer to God.

**A**s with anything that we aspire to learn, we must begin with desire. For, if we do not have the desire we will almost certainly fail or fall short. Prayer is no exception. We should not think to enter this half-hearted or whimsically and hope we will gain as much as those who approach this with the right attitude.

**Prayerful Thoughts:** *Lord, teach me to pray.*