

Deeper Riches: Luke Bible Study
Week 10 - Luke 11:1-12:12

Before you begin...

The incarnate Son of God, Jesus the Christ, continues to walk the earth in Luke 11 and 12, and the Kingdom of God continues to burst on the scene scattering the darkness and disrupting the status quo. For the poor and broken, those who are sick or afflicted, or those who have been weighed down by the burdens of a legalistic religious system, this is very good news. But for those who derive their status and power from that same system, this Kingdom is not welcome at all.

This week we will see some people recognize that Jesus is from God, and so they ask him how to pray. We will see others, though, who misunderstand and blaspheme Jesus, refusing to see the signs God has already given to prove Jesus' identity. Jesus has some harsh words for religious hypocrites, who have misinterpreted and added to the scriptures, deceiving the people. Jesus will warn his disciples not to follow in their footsteps, or cower to their threats.

Nearly the entire passage this week is comprised of Jesus' teaching, something you will notice more and more through this middle section of the journey to Jerusalem. Remember, his departure is on his mind, so as he is teaching his disciples about prayer and standing firm in the face of persecution, he is preparing them to follow him after he is gone. The book of Acts hangs in the distance, then, illuminating these instructions. The beginning of Luke 12, particularly, is laden with things we see lived out in the life of the disciples (especially Simon Peter), and recorded in Luke and Acts.

Are you ready to hear the words of Jesus? Are you ready to learn from Jesus how to pray? Brace yourself to feel the full weight of his words as we let Luke once again bring us to encounter the real Jesus. The way you look at prayer, religion, forgiveness, and fear may never be the same.

Father, I want to know who you really are. I want to know your Son, and I want to worship you in Spirit and in Truth. I want to be changed by your words. Teach me this week through this book. Teach me how to pray. If there are warnings here for me, open my eyes to see them. If there is encouragement here for me, let it sink down deep. As I come to your word this week, please give me more of you.

Day 1 - Luke 11:1-4

1. **Read Luke 11:1-4.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** that come to mind

If you prefer to take some time to write out more observations, try using the Observation Guides at DeeperRiches.com/Luke or write out your observations and thoughts in a journal.

2. What happened right after Jesus prayed in each of these passages?

Luke 3:21-22

Luke 6:12-13

Luke 9:18-22

Luke 9:29-30

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Luke Study Guide: Week 10 - Luke 11:1-12:12

3. What are the implications of addressing God as “Father” when we pray?

4. Look closely at Luke 11:2.
 - a. What are the first two things Jesus tells us to ask for in The Lord’s Prayer?

 - b. Rewrite these first two requests in your own words. What does each one mean?

 - c. Why do you think Jesus places these requests first (before even the request for daily bread)?

5. What do you notice about praying for our needs in Luke 11:3?

6. If Jesus died once and for all to pay for our sins, why do you think he tells us to ask for forgiveness daily?

7. Circle the word “for” in Luke 11:4.
 - a. What is the relationship between forgiving others and being forgiven by God? (Also Luke 6:37.)

 - b. The words translated “indebted to us” (or “sins against us” in NIV) mean to owe someone something. Can you think of someone whose sin against you you have held as a debt over their head, so to speak? According to this passage, how important is it for you to release that debt?

8. What temptations are you likely to face today and tomorrow? Try praying, “Father, keep me from temptation” when you feel tempted today, and see if it changes the battle.

- ❖ **Deep Dive:** *Each of the things Jesus tells us to ask for in this prayer corresponds to a promise from scripture. (For example Habakkuk 2:14, Daniel 7:27, Psalm 145:15, Jeremiah 31:34, and 1 Corinthians 10:13) If God has already promised to do these things, why does he still want us to ask? How does knowing he has promised these things affect how you pray?*

Luke Study Guide: Week 10 - Luke 11:1-12:12

9. Looking back over this model prayer, what does it teach us about what God wants us to desire? How do these desires compare with the desires you've been bringing to God lately?

10. What is one thing that will change about your prayer life in response to this passage?

Take a moment to **pray** through Luke 11:1-4. Use each verse or phrase as a launching point for prayer. Let God give you the desires he wants us to have as you ask for the things he wants us to ask for.

Day 2 - Luke 11:5-13

1. **Read Luke 11:5-13.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** that come to mind

2. How should we pray according to Luke 11:5-8? (Hint: Look up verse 11:8 in parallel translations, like at biblehub.com.)

3. What is something you have wanted to ask God for, but it seems too bold, too audacious, or shameless?

4. Luke 11:9-10 What do you think Jesus is teaching about prayer in Luke 11:9-10?

5. What is Jesus reminding us about God in Luke 11:11-13?

6. What is the good gift that God wants to give us in Luke 11:13? Why do you think Jesus specified that particular gift?

7. Jesus teaches that our view of God will affect how we pray. How does your view of God need to change in response to this passage?

Praise God for what you learned about him in this passage. **Repent** of prayerlessness or lack of faith. **Ask** boldly for the things God places on your heart. **Yield** to him pride, control, and all fear.

Luke Study Guide: Week 10 - Luke 11:1-12:12

Day 3 - Luke 11:14-32

1. **Read Luke 11:14-32.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
 - **who** is in the passage
 - **what** is happening
 - **when** and **where**
 - **repeated words** or **ideas**
 - **questions** that come to mind
2. What false accusation is levied against Jesus in Luke 11:14-15? Why was this a particularly evil accusation?
3. List everything you learn about Satan, demons, and Jesus from Luke 11:17-22.
4. What do you think it means to be “with” or “against” Jesus in the context of Luke 11:17-23?
5. What lesson do you think Jesus is communicating to his listeners in Luke 11:24-26?
6. In Luke 11:27, a woman from the crowd called Mary blessed, reminding us of Mary’s song in Luke 1:46-55. What do you find interesting about Jesus’ response (11:28)?
7. In Luke 11:29, Jesus called the crowds an evil generation, demanding a sign from heaven.
 - a. Why did the people want a sign? (See Luke 11:15-16.)
 - b. Why was it ironic (even evil) for them to demand a sign? (Consider 11:30-32 as well as Luke 7:21-23.)
 - c. What is the “sign of Jonah” that will be given to the crowds? (See Luke 18:33.)
 - d. What was the “queen of the south” commended for in verse 31? What were the people of Nineveh commended for in verse 32?
 - e. In comparison, what will “this generation” be condemned for at “the judgment”? (See also Luke 10:13 and 3:8-9)

Luke Study Guide: Week 10 - Luke 11:1-12:12

8. How do you think this passage relates to our current generation? How do people misunderstand or falsely accuse Jesus or his followers today? What about repentance?
9. What about you? When are you most prone to question God? Do you feel you need a sign from God in order to believe in Jesus?

Pray: Take a moment to pray for your own “generation” in response to this text.

Day 4 - Luke 11:33-54

1. **Read Luke 3:33-54.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
- **who** is in the passage
 - **what** is happening
 - **when** and **where**
 - **repeated words** or **ideas**
 - **questions** that come to mind
2. In Luke 11:33, Jesus mentions a lamp. Think about how valuable a single oil lamp would be in a home without electric light. With this in mind, summarize Luke 11:33 in your own words.
3. Circle every instance of “eye,” “see,” “light,” and “lamp” in Luke 11:33-36. Underline each instance of “darkness.”
- a. How is the eye like a lamp for your body?
 - b. What things do you currently place before your eyes (and ears) that illuminate your insides with Truth?
 - c. Where are you actually letting darkness seep into your insides through what you look at, listen to, or think about?
 - d. The Word of God is our source of light and truth. When you look at how much of your time and attention is given to the Word of God, are you figuratively placing your lamp in the cellar, or in the center of your house? How could you move that lamp to a more prominent place to let in more light?
- ❖ **Deep Dive:** How are Jesus' words about the eye being healthy or bad relevant for the evil generation who seeks a sign?

Luke Study Guide: Week 10 - Luke 11:1-12:12

4. Why did the Pharisee find it so offensive that Jesus didn't wash his hands in Luke 11:37-38? (See Mark 7:1-8.)

5. How would you summarize Jesus' criticism of the way the Pharisees practiced religion in Luke 11:39-43?

❖ **Deep Dive:** How does Numbers 19:16 help you understand what Jesus is saying in Luke 11:43?

6. What does Jesus criticize the experts in the law for in Luke 11:46 and 52?

7. In Luke 11:29-32, Jesus said "this generation" would be condemned for not repenting when one greater than Solomon or Jonah was with them. Now, in Luke 11:47-51, what does Jesus say "this generation" will be held responsible for? What is so awful about what "this generation" of Israel is about to do? (See Luke 9:22 and 23:1-23. Also Acts 2:36-40 and 3:15.)

8. What do you learn from this passage about how God views religion? How does this encourage or challenge you personally?

Pray in response to what God has shown you. **Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield.**

Day 5 - Luke 12:1-12

1. **Read Luke 12:1-12.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** that come to mind

2. What emotions do you think the disciples may have experienced as the atmosphere grew more heated with the religious leaders (11:53-54) and the crowds (12:1)?

Luke Study Guide: Week 10 - Luke 11:1-12:12

3. What is “hypocrisy”?

4. What do you think Jesus was referring to in Luke 12:2-3 when he said all hidden things would be made known? (Hint: What might the disciples have said in the dark that will soon be heard in the light? Compare Luke 9:18-22 with Acts 2:36.)

5. What kinds of hypocrisy will the disciples be tempted to practice? Why? (Consider Luke 11:8-9 and 22:54-62. Also Galatians 2:11-14.)

6. What did Jesus have to say about fear in Luke 12:4-7?

7. Where in your life does fear threaten to stop you from doing something God is calling you to do? Is it fear of man, fear of death, or some other fear?

8. What does Luke 12:8-10 have to say about the eternal consequences of what we say in public about Jesus?

- ❖ **Deep Dive:** *What might it mean to “blaspheme the Holy Spirit”? Is there anything in the previous chapter (Luke 11) which might be an example of this?*

9. What fear does Jesus address in Luke 12:11? How can you relate to this fear?

10. How does the promise of Luke 12:12 impact your thinking about defending your faith? (Read Acts 4:1-13 for an example of this in action.)

Ask God to keep you from hypocrisy. **Confess** any hypocrisy he reveals to you as you pray. **Yield** any fear of man or fear of death that he has revealed. Look back over this passage and **thank** him for his good promises.

Luke Study Guide: Week 10 - Luke 11:1-12:12

Pulling it all together

1. What is one thing you think Luke really wants us to understand from this week's passage? **If you have time, reread all of Luke 11:1-12:12 before answering.**
2. What is Luke saying about the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan in these passages?
3. What do you learn about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit from these passages?
4. What is your most important personal take-away from this chapter? (Was there a **key verse**, a **special insight**, an **example** to follow, a new **way to pray**, something that **challenged** or **convicted** you, etc...)

In what area of your life does this seem to matter most, and how?

*One of the best ways to **apply** the Word of God to your own life is to really **pray** about what you have seen in the passage. Try this acronym: **P.R.A.Y.** - **Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield.** Use the prompts below to guide your prayers.*

PRAISE. Thank and praise God for who he is and what he has done. Be specific.

REPENT. Confess your sin to God and turn from it. Agree with God about the things that need to change. Be specific.

ASK. What will you ask God to do based on what he has shown you? Be specific.

YIELD. What will you surrender to God? How can you trust and obey him in response to what he has shown you? Be specific.

Luke Study Guide: Week 10 - Luke 11:1-12:12

Small Group Discussion Guide:

1. What does Luke 11:1-4 teach us about what God wants us to desire? Why do you think he wants us to desire each of these things? How does this prayer compare with the desires you usually bring before God?
2. What does Jesus' teaching on prayer in Luke 11:1-13 say about who God is? How does your view of God need to change in response to this passage? How will this impact your prayers?
3. As the kingdom of God comes, what impact does it have on the kingdom of Satan (Luke 11:14-26)? What do you think it means to be "with" or "against" Jesus in this context? (Luke 11:23)
4. What similarities do you see between Luke 11:29-32 and 11:47-51? What do you think Luke wants us to understand from these passages?
5. How is the eye like a lamp for your body? What things do you currently place before your eyes (and ears) that illuminate your insides with Truth? Where are you actually letting darkness seep into your insides through what you look at, listen to, or think about?
6. What do you learn about religion from Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees and legal experts? (Luke 11:37-54) How does this encourage or challenge you personally?
7. What is hypocrisy? How did the Pharisees practice hypocrisy? What kinds of hypocrisy will the disciples be tempted to practice? Why? (Luke 12:1-12.)
8. What does Jesus teach about fear in Luke 12:1-12? What encouragement do you find in Luke 12:1-12 to combat your own fears?

What is your big take-away from this passage or this discussion? Is there anything you need to confess or yield to God in response to this Truth? What will you praise God for? What will you ask God to do?