

SESSION 6: The Gospels

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Session 6 explores the accounts of the four Gospels. In these books, we see the One to whom the entire Old Testament was pointing—Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus secures the salvation of His people and teaches them what it means to be a citizen of His kingdom.

Through Jesus' teaching and example, we understand that prayer, fasting, and the pursuit of God are central to Christian discipleship. In a passage known as "The Lord's Prayer" (Matthew 6:9–13; Luke 11:2–4), Jesus gives us a kind of template, or pattern, for how to pray, and it's a pattern that He embodied in His own life and death. The One who taught us to ask that God's will might be done on earth submitted to His Father's will at the cost of His own life.

1. What can we learn from the way Jesus resisted the temptations of Satan in the wilderness? (See #78, Matthew 4)
2. What is so significant about the fact that Christians are invited to call on God as their "Father"? (See #79, Matthew 6 and Luke 11)
3. Why is it important that we see prayer as a way to grow in our relationship with God rather than simply a way to get our wishes fulfilled? What are some signs that your prayers lack this God-centered perspective? (See #79, Matthew 6 and Luke 11)
4. How can the request "Hallowed be your name" help us to know what to pray for? (See #79, Matthew 6 and Luke 11)
5. What role should prayer play in the church's mission of making disciples of all nations? Why do you think many Christians don't see prayer as indispensable to the church's mission? (See #81, Matthew 9)

6. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God with all that we are. How should this command affect the way disciples pursue God? (See #84, Matthew 22)
7. Jesus taught us to pray in faith. Does that mean that we should not pray if we are struggling with unbelief? Explain your answer. (See #85, Mark 9)
8. Give some examples from the life and teaching of Jesus that demonstrate the importance of prayer. (See #87, Luke)
9. Why is it so crucial that we persevere in prayer, even when it seems as if God is not listening? Make a list of biblical truths—God's attributes and promises—you can meditate on in order to help you persevere in prayer. (See #89, Luke 18)
10. Prior to His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus prayed and submitted Himself to His Father's will (Matthew 26:36–46). What role did Jesus' submission play in our salvation?