

Prologue

The Prayers of Jesus

Luke tells us in 5:16, “Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” He especially prayed before important events or when there was a change in plans. What did Jesus do after he prayed? Fill in the sentences below the Bible text.^S Share your answers.

Here is an example from Luke 3: 21,22.

3:21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 3:22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Jesus prayed and God spoke from heaven. He said, “You are my Son whom I love.”

A. Luke 4:40-44

4:40 When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. 4:41 Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he

rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ. 4:42 At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. 4:43 But he said, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” 4:44 And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Jesus prayed¹ and _____.

B. Luke 6:12-16

6:12 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. 6:13 When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: 6:14 Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, 6:15 Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, 6:16 Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Jesus prayed and _____.

¹ The text does not say that Jesus prayed. However, the same story in Mark 1:35 states, “Jesus ...went off to a solitary place where he prayed.” NIV

C. Luke 9:16,17

9:16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people.

9:17 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Jesus prayed and _____.

D. Luke 9:18-20

9:18 Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”

9:19 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”

9:20 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

9:20b Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

9:21 Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. 9:22 And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

Jesus prayed and _____.

E. Luke 9:28-31, 34-35

9:28 Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 9:29 And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered,² and his clothing became dazzling white.³ 9:30 And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, 9:31 who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.⁴

Jesus prayed and this time, he discussed his own “departure,” or death. To say that he was going to “accomplish” this tells us that it was his mission, his goal. Why would the great teacher plan to go to Jerusalem if he knew he was going to be killed there? The disciples certainly did not understand this, so you can learn along with them as they travel to Jerusalem with Jesus.

² To alter is to change. This is the passive tense.

³ The idea here is that it was so bright that they could hardly look at it. The word “glory” in 9:31, 32 gives the same idea.

⁴ You can read more about this text in the epilogue in *Luke’s Ancient Biography of Jesus: Workbook One*.