

## Lifeline

### Jesus is Our Savior from Fatherlessness

Luke 11:1-13

*“One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters.” Poet George Herbert*

Research tells us there is no greater predictor of a vulnerable minor than one without a present & engaged father. 63% of youth suicides, 90% of all homeless/runaway kids & 85% of kids with behavioral disorders live in a home with no father present. And yet, **whether absent or present, loving or hateful, kind or mean, alcoholic, workaholic or sportsaholic, every father in the world is flawed.**

**Main Idea:** Jesus offers a Lifeline out of Fatherlessness by Reconciling us to God

#### Three Aspects of our Heavenly Father:

##### I. The Identity of Our Father

*“Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, & when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’”*

**Luke 11:1**

Christians have always believed in one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son & Holy Spirit. All are equal in power, importance and worth, but distinct in role & relation to humans.

- **Jesus** is God the Son, & we relate to Him as our Savior.
- God the **Holy Spirit** indwells us at salvation & we relate to him as Comforter.
- God the **Father** is our creator, & we relate to him as our Heavenly Father.

*“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, & if children, then heirs – heirs of God & fellow heirs with Christ...”* **Romans 8:14-17a**

**Abba:** The affectionate word for ‘Father’ indicating closeness, affection & trust between a son/daughter & father.

*“Father of the fatherless, & protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.”* **Psalms 68:5**

##### II. Our Relationship with Our Father

*“And he said to them, ‘When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, & forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.’”* **Luke 11:2-4**

**Lord’s Prayer:** Luke records a shorter version, better referred to as *The Disciples Prayer* or *Pattern for Prayer* & it shows us three things (MacArthur):

- **God’s Person** – He is our Father & He is Holy!
- **God’s Purpose** – His Kingdom & Glory is His primary concern!

*“But seek first the kingdom of God & his righteousness, & all these things will be added to you.”* **Matthew 6:33**

- **God’s Provision** – Daily sustenance, forgiveness & protection for us!

*“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”* **Matthew 6:7-8**

##### III. The Certainty of Our Father

*“And he said to them, ‘Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight & say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, & I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, & my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up & give you anything’? I tell you, though he will not get up & give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise & give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, & it will be given to you; seek, & you will find; knock, & it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, & the one who seeks finds, & to the one knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”* **Luke 11:5-13**

*“...but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”* **Proverbs 18:24**

*“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”* **Luke 12:32**

*“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself & gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, & entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”* **2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

A relationship with Jesus Christ accomplishes two things: 1) Makes God your perfect Heavenly Father, & 2) It empowers you to forgive your earthly father and extend grace to him regardless of what he’s done or not done.

#### Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Luke* – R.H. Stein (1992)
- *The Gospel of Luke* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Luke for Everyone* – N.T. Wright (2004)
- *Luke* – Trent. C. Butler (2000)
- *MacArthur NT Commentary: Luke* – John MacArthur (2011)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Statistics on Fatherlessness in America* – liveabout.com (2019)

