

5 Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, **6** ‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ **7** And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.’ **8** But I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.

9 “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. **10** For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

11 “You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? **12** Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! **13** So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

— Luke 11:5-13

Discussion/Journal Questions

Who is your favorite person to talk with? What do you talk about?

Have two or three people read 11:5-13 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

In the sermon, Sam encouraged us to talk with God about how we feel (our joys and pains) and what we want God to do about it (our hopes and fears). Which of these two do you find most comfortable talking with God about? Why?

In Luke 11, Jesus makes a point about prayer with a story of a friend asking another friend for help late at night. In your own words, what is Jesus trying to teach us with this example?

Read John 14:13-14. What do you think Jesus means in these verses? Is this a promise to say “Yes” to anything we ask? Why or why not?

In the sermon, we used the acronym ACT to discuss what praying in Jesus’ name means. What does ACT stand for?

Do you trust God enough to accept “No” or “Not yet” as an answer to prayer?

The Prayer Practice this week is to give God your full attention by being mindful of how you transition into prayer. Spend one or two minutes in silence to prepare yourself for prayer. Have you tried this? How did it go?