



Group Study Guide

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The Stories Jesus Told: The Friend at Midnight
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MESSAGE NOTES:

Luke 11:5-8

"⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' ⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity^[a] he will surely get up and give you as much as you need."

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):

- If you were up at midnight, what would be your favorite late-night snack?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture Reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **Luke 11:5-8**.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. Share: What is currently most satisfying about your prayer life and why? What is currently most difficult with your prayer life and why?
3. Considering the hospitality culture of that time, what made this man so desperate to get some "bread" for his friend? Why are you (or people you know) often more prone to pray when things in your life become desperate?
4. Read verse 8. What does it mean and look like to pray with bold, shameless audacity? How might it appear "irreverent" to pray in this way, and how is it actually freeing to do so?
5. Consider how people prayed and bartered with God in the Bible: (Abraham in Gen 18, Moses in Exodus 32, Jacob who wrestled with God, the persistent widow in Luke 18). Considering these examples, how might this model praying, pleading, and bartering with God?
6. How do you reconcile a consistent God who does not change (Malachi 3:6) with a God who responds, and from a human perspective, changes direction as a result of prayer?
7. Why might God not give us what we're praying for or delay an answer?
8. Consider Hebrews 4:14-16. How does Jesus ultimately give us direct prayer access to God?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.