

MESSAGE NOTES:

Luke 11:1-13

Jesus' Teaching on Prayer

"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

² *He said to them, "When you pray, say:*

"Father,^[a]

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come.^[b]

³ *Give us each day our daily bread.*

⁴ *Forgive us our sins,*

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.^[c]

And lead us not into temptation.^[d]"

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^[e] he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.*

⁹ *"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.*

¹¹ *"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for^[f] a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

I. Instruction in Prayer (Luke 11:1-4)

Abraham Lincoln - "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day."

John Piper - "Prayer is the turning away from ourselves to God in the confidence that He will provide the help we need. Prayer humbles us as needy and exalts God as wealthy."

Henri Nouwen - "Prayer is the center of the Christian life... It is living with God in the here and now."

II. Illustration of Prayer (Luke 11:5-13)

John 14:16 - *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever..."*

C.S. Lewis - "If God had granted all the silly prayer I've made in my life, where should I be now?"

Nicholas Sparks - "I don't pray because it doesn't work. Prayer doesn't fix anything. Bad things happen anyway."

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):

- If you had access to an hour of in-person teaching from Jesus on the topic of your choosing, what topic would you choose to learn about?

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. This story depicts an exchange between friends. Consider your own friendships. What would be required for you to feel the freedom to display "shameless audacity" before friends?
3. Based on this story, what might "shameless audacity" look like in the context of prayer? How does your prayer life compare to this picture?
4. What are some common hurdles to praying in this posture?
5. Read Luke 11:9-13. What truths about God encourage us in this type of posture in our prayer?
6. Read Romans 8:26-27. Consider what you know as a group about the Holy Spirit. Why is this a good gift from the Father in response to our requests?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.