



## **Message Series Guide**

### **Without Ceasing**

#### **Part 2 – How to Pray**

#### **Luke 11:1-2; Matthew 7:7-11**

The most powerful thing a Christian can do is pray. Yet how often are we guilty of making prayer our last resort or giving up on it when our request isn't immediately met? Perhaps it's this human tendency that prompted Jesus to remind us to never stop praying to our Father. God promises that in time we will be given an answer, find what we seek, and walk through an open door. That's when we discover our heavenly Father always gives us what is good, even if it doesn't look exactly the way we expect or fit our timetable. Through His answers, we gain greater faith in Him and insight into what He deems good. Then we'll know how to pray more wisely according to His will the next time we have a need.

### **READ:**

**Luke 11:1-2 | Matthew 7:7-11 | 1 John 5:14-15 | James 4:3 | 1 Peter 3:7**

- How does Jesus instruct His followers to begin their prayers? What is the significance of addressing God as 'Father'? Do you find it easy or difficult to address God as 'Father'?
- What are the implications of our prayer life when we come before God as his children? How do loving parents respond to a child's request for bread and fish? How does this reflect the nature of God?
- Why is prayer so integral to our relationship with God? What is the power behind prayer?
- Why does Jesus command His disciples to ask, to seek, and to knock? What do these commands imply about our heart towards and our dependence on God? Why is it important that we ask, seek and knock persistently? How can we keep on asking God without feeling like we are nagging Him?
- How should the truth about God's desire and promise to respond to His children impact your faith and your prayer life? What does God's nature reveal about how He answers our prayers?
- Does God always answer our prayers? Why or why not? If God's answers our prayers differently than we expect, what should we assume? How does God's good nature give us confidence in our prayers?

### **DISCUSS:**

- Describe a time when you experienced the power of prayer? Why is persistent prayer essential for a building a healthy prayer life?
- Have you ever struggled with whether or not God is a giver of good gifts in your life? If so, when, and why? How did you pray through that season?
- Have you ever prayed and felt as if God did not answer your prayer? How did you deal with that?
- God always gives us what's good. Does that mean He also gives us what *feels* good? Why or why not?
- When it comes to prayer, what is your greatest weakness or struggle?

### **PRAY:**

Make a list of the things you want to pray for in the coming weeks and month. Make a commitment to ask until you are given an answer, seek until you find, and knock until the door opens.

### **RESPOND:**

Commit to participate with The Ridge's 21-Days of Prayer emphasis (January 11-31). Go to [www.theridge.cc](http://www.theridge.cc) to view the prayer guide for further instruction and information. **Night of Prayer + Worship – January 29 at 6p**