



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## WEEK 2: FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT

### Read the Text

#### Luke 11:5-13

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; <sup>7</sup> and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence<sup>[a]</sup> he will rise and give him whatever he needs. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup> What father among you, if his son asks for<sup>[b]</sup> a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; <sup>12</sup> or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> 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!”

### Main Point

We continue this week with Jesus using a parable as a window to the Kingdom of God. After teaching the disciples how to pray, Jesus tells a parable about a frantic man desperately seeking out help from his friend. From this story, we learn that ***open and direct communication with God is abundant in the Kingdom.*** God WANTS to hear from us. He has time for us. He’s never too busy for us.

In reality though, ***our broken world has fractured the lines of communication with God.*** This man pounds on his friend’s door in the middle of the night with shameless boldness, fully expecting to be helped. How does that compare to how we approach God? Jesus is trying to teach us that we can come to God in this way too: bold, desperate, and shameless.

Approaching God this way doesn't just happen though. ***To re-open the lines of communication to God, we must remember that God is willing, able, and available to meet our needs.*** We must remember that we need His help. That He is powerful enough to help. And that He sees us as worthy of His help.

### **Reflect Together**

1. God wants us to approach Him boldly and shamelessly. Why do you think that is? What does that reveal about His character and how He sees us?
2. What influences – both positive and negative – do you have that impact how you pray? Consider how your needs were met (or not met) growing up and other life-shaping experiences.
3. How is your prayer life right now? How would you like to grow in it? Take an opportunity to learn from one another about each other's prayer lives.

### **Abide Together**

Doxa has a great spiritual formation guide about prayer. Check out our app and click the "Spiritual Formation" tile and read it over. There are some practices you can do individually and collectively.

Pray together as a group! Pray on behalf of one another for a thriving prayer life where each of you can approach the Father with boldness and confidence.