

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"HOW MUCH MORE" | LUKE 11:1-13 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

In your opinion, where do most people learn to pray?

"Fatherhood" (Luke 11: 1-4)

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray because they saw it was a priority for him, and he gives them a pattern in this model prayer. **Why does this model start with praising the Heavenly Father and asking for His kingdom? Why does Jesus encourage people to ask for forgiveness as they forgive others?**

"Fatherliness" (Luke 11: 5-13)

Jesus gives an analogy that just like a friend will boldly ask a neighbor for help, so can people boldly go to God in prayer. **What does praying persistently or boldly look like?**

Jesus reminds his followers that God is their Heavenly Father who wants to give us the Holy Spirit. **Why do people need that reminder? What's the reason for asking and seeking the Holy Spirit?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus took time to teach us to pray because it is one of the main ways to develop and maintain our relationship with God. Part of his lesson focused on remembering that God is our Father who loves us and wants what's best for us. **Have you been trusting God lately, believing He loves you and wants what's best for you as you pray to Him? Have you been honest with God about your fears and frustrations that make it hard to trust Him in prayer? Ask God to shift your desires and focus to wanting Him and His Holy Spirit.**

How Much More

I. Announce:

- A. Slide1-6 Lar: CK. REAL. DC&GS(2). Employment. When She Leads.
- B. Slide7 Operation Unity: Through the month of Sept we will be doing *a church-wide small group study* we've called *Operation Unity* (only 4 weeks so we hope you will all be able to *participate* in this) *Why the name?* (2 reasons)
1. We believe small groups are important in making *strong connections with other believers*. We will *pause* our normal way of doing things *and focus on developing small groups and developing connections*.
 2. We also will be **unified** in *what we are learning* - whether in a small group as an adult, children's church, Rise High, 678, or YAMS we are all going to be *learning the same thing*. For all ages. Theme: *Authentic Love*.

II. Slide8 Intro: How Much More

- A. Genuine Prayer can be *baffling and challenging*. For many it is *misunderstood and neglected*. *What keeps us from praying?*
1. We can become **distracted** in prayer. Many things can be barriers. We can become **confused** in it.
 - a) We can get caught up in the details of: *How often should I pray? How long should I pray? What posture should I pray in? Are we supposed to feel a certain way?* And our **confusion** can lead us into **inaction**.
 2. We also can become quickly **diverted** from prayer. It's easy to put off because we're **busy**. **And** an *urgent life* can lead to a **prayerless life**.
 - a) Or we just chalk it up to, *I'm not the praying type, or it's not my spiritual gift*.
 3. We also can become **discouraged** in prayer. You might feel that you *never do enough* in prayer. **Or** are frustrated with **non-answers**.
- B. Slide9 Kevin Deyoung writes, *"We don't pray to change God's mind. We pray because God has ordained means to accomplish His ends ... God doesn't need*

prayer, *but he uses prayer just like He uses other means. Uses **rain** to grow the crops, **sun** to warm the earth, and **food** strengthen the body. In the same way, God uses prayer to do His sovereign work.”*

C. He welcomes us to come to Him in prayer. He is not distant, not silent. He’s relational and personal. He hears us and He loves us.

1. Here’s my prayer: *May this morning be an encouragement to each of us!*

III. Slide10a **FATHERHOOD (1-4)** Outline: *Fatherhood & Fatherliness.*

A. It’s typically called *the Lord’s Prayer*, *but* it would be better called *the disciples prayer*, as **the Lord** (Jesus) could never pray, *forgive us our sins* (no need).

1. **So**, it’s a prayer He teaches **us** to pray. [36 words. 15 sec’s to pray]
*To which someone said, some people’s prayers need to be cut short on both sides **and** set on fire in the middle!*

a) **The Bible** gives us many instructions on how to pray: *pray without ceasing, come boldly to the throne of grace, let your words be few, let not your heart utter anything hastily before God, ask in faith not wavering, ask anything in my name and I will do it, etc.*

2. **But here** He teaches us how to **prioritize** prayer (1,2a) **and** then the **pattern** for Prayer (2b-4).

B. Slide10b **THE PRIORITY FOR PRAYER** (1,2a)

C. It was typical for the rabbis to teach his disciples *how to pray*. (the question comes from: His example **&** their watching/examining)

1. We don't know or have **John the Baptists** prayer.

2. They obviously saw **Jesus** dependence on prayer, **and** since Luke records Jesus praying *about a dozen times*, **then** we quickly realize what a **priority** it was for Him.

D. I think they are asking because *prayer doesn’t come **naturally** to any of us.*

E. **THE PATTERN FOR PRAYER** (2b-4)

F. **This is the greatest prayer ever prayed.**

1. This is like **the greatest singer** teaching us *how to sing*.
 Or the greatest **soccer player** teaching us how to *make a goal*.
 Or the greatest **artist** teaching us how to *paint*.

G. I believe it's beautiful to pray this as *a prayer, as long as* the heart and mind are engaged (not just to recite it verbatim).

1. **Slide11 Prayer Wheels:** written prayer on the outside & often 100's/1000's written inside wrapped around the core *life tree* (often we see prayer the same way)
2. **But** I believe it is more of *a pattern* for us on how to **structure** our prayers.
 - a) **Note the pattern** our prayers should **begin w/Him**, then move to **our** needs.
 - b) Oh and **how else do we have communion with Him, but in prayer?** This is how we draw close to his heart.

H. **Slide12a** This prayer is brought to you by the letter "P".

1. Its Principle Figure - **Father**

a) We immediately see our prayer is relational.

(1) *We don't pray to an abstract idea. We don't hurl prayers into the universe hoping that the cosmos hear us. We don't pray to our ancestors. We pray to a living God, that is overall the Listening Lord.*

b) We call him *Father* because we get to come before him as *His children*.

2. Its Purpose - **hallowed be your name**

a) **Hallowed** - revered, magnified, adored. That His **Name** would be honored above all.

(1) Back then, one's **name** summed up *1's whole character, reputation*.

b) **Slide12b** Ps.96 - *Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.*

3. Its Priority - **Your kingdom come**

a) Which reminds us that **the King** is coming. **That** His kingdom *came* in Jesus' first coming. **That** His kingdom *is present* in our lives. **That** His kingdom will

come in the final consummation (at the 2nd coming of Christ). *The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.* Rev.11:15

4. **Its Provision** - Give us each day our daily bread [now we see a shift]
- a) If you ever wondered *if God cared about your daily needs* you need to go no further than this.
 - b) This speaks to our daily dependence upon God for our basic needs. (eg. mana from heaven each day).
 - c) Also, don't miss our daily **physical bread** points to Jesus our **spiritual bread** from heaven.
 - (1) Does this mean that every prayer we pray gets answered, **no!** You can pray every Sunday "*give us this day our daily Chick-fil-A*" **but** it's not gonna be open on any Sunday.
 - (2) So prayer is **trusting** our good heavenly Father to *not give us* what we **don't need** at that time.
 - (3) That's why we were told to seek first the kingdom of God.
 - (4) Jn.6:51 *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.*
5. **Its Pardon** - and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. [msg, keep us forgiven w/You & forgiving others]
- a) 2 things are happening here: **1st** is to ask for forgiveness.
 - (1) **This is not** the initial prayer for salvation. **This is a prayer believers pray because sin hinders our fellowship with God.**
 - b) **2nd** part of this is *forgiving others ... everyone.*
 - (1) But this side of eternity we need to remember **trust** isn't always restored. This may not remove the **consequence** of the sin. Forgiveness does not mean we accept **abuse**. Forgiveness does not

necessarily mean **forgetting**. And forgiving doesn't mean that we always forget **the pain** of the offense.

(2) **But** when we *choose to forgive someone* we are removing ourselves as **judge**.

(3) **How is it possible to do this?** **1st** grasp the gravity of our **own sin**. We have been **forgiven much** so we can **forgive others** what they have done to us.

6. **Its Protection** - **And lead us not into temptation.**

a) **2 realities:** 1) We are *prone* to sin, **and** 2) we are dependent upon God for *protection* of sin.

(1) We could pray then, **do not let us be given over to sin**. Temptation to sin will come, **but** we don't have fall to it.

IV. Slide13a **FATHERLINESS (5-13)** from *Fatherhood*

A. **FRIENDSHIP (5-8)** *then Sonship*

B. **Houses in Israel** especially in rural areas, were small, consisting of 1 room used as sitting room, dining room, & bedroom.

1. A house had **1 door**, which was left open through the day.

In the evening they would close the door & slide **a wooden bar** through the rings on **the door & wall** to keep out intruders.

2. **Mats** were spread out & were used as beds on which the family slept all in a row. (In such circumstances it was rather difficult to get up in the dark and do just about anything).

C. **This isn't** about God's disposition towards us.

1. **God** is not *annoyed* with us, **or** a *sleeping* neighbor, **He's not** irritated when we come knocking, **nor** who's *door* is actually **ever shut** to us.

D. **This is** about our disposition towards God.

1. **Come before God with boldness**. Not fear, not shame, not timidity.

a) **Impudence** - *persistence, shamelessness, boldness* [only herein NT].

2. Slide13b Philip Ryken, “Prayer is not a way of **getting God** to do what we want, or **persuading** him to do something that he does not want to do. But prayer is an **audaciously bold request** for God to do what he has **promised** to do. So when we ask God to hallow his name, to establish his kingdom, to give us bread, to forgive our sins, and to save us from temptation, we may do it with **shameless persistence.**”

E. See actually God is being *contrasted* to this neighbor.

1. He is saying, “If a sleeping neighbor, on the basis of **friendship & social etiquette**, will meet the needs of a friend, **how much more** will your **Father in heaven** meet the needs of His own children!”

F. What we have here is a *parabolic contrast*.

1. God is a **loving Father** not a **grouchy neighbor**.

2. All that the friend was, **God is not**; & the friend’s answer stands **in sharp contrast** to the answer of God.

G. Now after Jesus’ *parabolic contrast*, He gives a *parabolic comparison*.

H. Slide14a **SONSHIP** (9-13)

I. Slide14b **Ask, seek, knock** - **doesn’t mean** keep beating and hammering on God’s door until you get what you want. **Or** to keep pounding till you overcomes God’s unwillingness to act. **It isn’t** God playing *hard to get, cat/mouse*, or *hide/seek* game. **And it doesn’t mean** our goal is to **coerce** an unwilling God to answer us.

J. Slide14c **Ask, seek, knock** - **does** tell a story of *a Father & child relationship* to illustrate **who God is!**

1. The **1st man/neighbor** **would not** give; **did not** want to be troubled; **but finally did give** to *avoid trouble*.

2. The **2nd man/father** said to his son, **just ask & you’ll obtain; seek & you’ll locate; knock & I’ll open the access for you.**

K. Slide14d This is a story about friendship (5), that shifts to sonship (11).

1. True prayer is not based on our **friendship** w/God, but on the fact that we are the **children** of God. **A father meets the needs of his children not to avoid shame, but to express love!**
 2. So it's keeping in **close communion** with the Father, **knowing** His will, & **asking** Him to perform His will.
- L. **Serpent & scorpion** – (often found inside the house, **so** not random thoughts here)
1. **No father** is going to give a **small child** a **sharp knife** or a **loaded gun**, no matter how much the child begs for it.
 2. **No mother** is going to give her **pre-teen** the **keys to the car** for a joyride, **or** her **toddler** freedom to **play in the medicine cabinet**.
 - a) **So, God** will **not** put some things in our hands, **until** he 1st prepares us for it.
- M. **Fish & Egg** – what also shows *God so kind* is when we ask for **stones**, He **doesn't** give us one ... *when He knows we need bread!* (Thank you Lord!)
1. Our heavenly Father knows how to give **far better than we know how to ask**. **How Much More???**
- N. **Yes pray for material things, health, finances, but this isn't the highest form of prayer**. Graduate to the **highest level of praying** as He promises to **give the Holy Spirit** to those who **ask** of Him.
1. **Ask to receive God's Spirit** into your life. **Ask for a fresh filling** of the HS. **Ask for an overflowing** of His Spirit. **Ask for the gifts** of the spirit **and** the **fruit** of the spirit. **Ask for We the Spirit to build your character, guide your conduct, and empower you for service.**
- O. God earnestly longs to give us what we need, so ask boldly, He wants to give he wants you to find he wants to open. So don't grow weary in praying. Persist in prayer. Be bold in prayer.
- P. **Prayer:** Lord, may we set **our imagination** loose, to run off leash for a while, pondering ... **How Much More?** Lord, have we been praying for *a little dinner roll* & all along You were thinking **Apple Fritters?** **1 gift** of the Spirit, when You were thinking **all** the gifts for us, to use in time of need?
- Q. Keywords: Prayer, promises, provision.