



## Prayer

Week of March 7 , 2021

### Intro Discussion Questions:

- *Optional -- If you read the Bible Reading Plan from last week, did any verses stand out to you that you would like to share?*
- *Have you ever looked up to someone for the way they have mastered a skill and asked them to show you how they do it? Explain. (carpenter, musician, etc.)*

### Read Bible Study Summary:

Upon seeing Jesus pray in Luke 11, one of his disciples, assumedly impressed with the quality of Jesus's prayer life, desired to talk to God like Jesus talked to God. Therefore, he makes a simple request: teach us to pray. Who better to teach on talking to God, than the only begotten son of God, Jesus Christ? You see, Jesus did not leave talking to God up to chance. Instead, Jesus made talking to God a priority and even picked a certain place where prayer would occur in the most beneficial way. Jesus took praying seriously. We also should think of prayer seriously and make it a priority in our lives.

### Main Scripture

1. **Read Luke 11:1-4**

### How Does Jesus Teach Us to Pray?

1. **Address God By Name (v. 2a)**

- Jesus told his disciples to address God as "Father" in their prayers. He set the example for his disciples to pray to God within the intimate relationship of a father and child. Notice, here, that his audience is indeed his disciples. Every human is not able to call God their Father. The Bible says this is the special privilege of followers of Jesus.
- Additionally, we see Jesus telling the disciples that they ought to pray for God's name to be hallowed. This request is asking for God to reveal himself as hallowed, holy, or set apart from the rest of all creation. As such, the believer should long to know God and request for God to reveal himself to us and others more fully.

- **Read John 1:12** - Yet to all who did receive him [King Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.
- **Ask Question** - How has prayer increased your relationship with God as your Heavenly Father? How have you grown to know him more fully?

## 2. Seek God's Nearness (v. 2b)

- In addition, we see that Jesus told his disciples to present a request for the nearness of God's home. Jesus said, "Your kingdom come." When Jesus came to earth, he initiated the coming of God's Kingdom. Jesus, the God-man, came to win the victory for God's Kingdom once and for all. The victory has been won, but the Kingdom has not yet been established in its fullness on earth.
- Jesus's petition in his prayer longs for the fulfillment of that victory to be experienced. Therefore, as a Christian, you should regularly (daily) say to God, "have your way in my heart and in my life." This request reveals the end goal of Christianity which longs for God to be King on earth and in our hearts as he is in heaven.
  - **Ask Question** - Think about your own prayer life. In what ways has God "had his way in your heart" through prayer? What areas do you still long for him to be victorious over?
  - **Read Psalm 103:1-5; 19** - Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

## 3. Request Help for Our Needs (3-4)

- **Daily Food**
  - Jesus seemed to be telling the disciples, "Pray for your daily needs of provision." In other words, pray for food, water, shelter. Pray for your daily, basic needs to live. God cares about your physical needs in life. God knows your needs. Jesus here showed the disciples that there is no need too small to bring before the Lord in prayer. God cares for all of your needs, even those that do not seem directly related to spiritual things.
- **Daily Forgiveness**
  - Jesus helped the disciples realize they should regularly request forgiveness for the ways they fail the Father. The forgiveness Jesus told the disciples to request is not forgiveness for salvation, or entering a relationship with God. Instead, Jesus speaks of those already in a relationship with God to ask for forgiveness of the sins they might commit when saved.
  - Jesus recognized that our attitude toward forgiving others can be a direct obstacle of joyful fellowship with the Father. In other words, you could not be experiencing the great joy offered to you in a relationship with God presently, if you are withholding forgiveness from those who have sinned against you.
- **Daily Freedom**
  - Surely, we realize as Christians temptation is everywhere. Temptation comes from our flesh, Satan, and the world, but temptation does not come from God. James told us as much when he said, "God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one" (James 1:13).

- Therefore, Jesus was not saying: "God will tempt you unless you ask him otherwise." Rather, Jesus was telling the disciples to request for God to sustain them when they faced temptation.
  - **Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13** - *So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

- **Ask Questions**

- *What is a personal example of God answering your prayers for daily provision?*
- *In what ways does seeking forgiveness for sins strengthen your fellowship with the Father?*
- *How have you experienced prayer sustain you during temptation?*

## Closing In Prayer

- *Ask Question - What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?*
- Pray together over those requests.