

# The Gospel Makes Us a People of Prayer

Luke 11:1-13



## Scripture

Luke 11:1-13 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." <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "When you pray, say: "'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup> Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. '" <sup>5</sup> Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup> because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup> "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. <sup>9</sup> "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. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> 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!"

## Main Idea

In verses 1-4, Jesus teaches how to pray, and then in verses 5-13, Jesus teaches us how we should approach God in prayer with boldness and persistence. Verses 5-13 will be the focus of this study. Probably the best word to describe the approach of the man to his friend in the parable would be – shameless. Jesus encourages us to approach God with a boldness and a persistence that might make us uncomfortable. This kind of approach to God only makes sense when we see how Jesus describes our relationship to the Father – we are his children. Because the gospel tells us we are adopted children of God, we can have unshakeable confidence that God will answer our bold and persistent prayers as a perfect, loving and wise Father.

## Discussion

Q1: What comes to your mind first when you think of prayer? Share about a time when you prayed with intensity or fervency for something. What was it about the situation that drove you to pray like that?

Q2: Read Luke 11:1-13 above. What does it mean to approach God "shamelessly" like the man in the parable? Are you comfortable approaching God in this way? Is it possible to "annoy" or "bother" God? Discuss.

Q3: When you hear Jesus encouraging us to "keep on asking, keep on seeking and keep on knocking" what concerns or questions come to your mind? Why do we often hesitate to approach God like this?

Q4: What do you find to be the biggest hindrances in your personal prayer life? How does this passage/discussion help provide perspective on those hindrances?

Q5: Jesus wants us to have assurance that, because God is our Father, we can trust that He will respond to our prayers with perfect goodness, love and wisdom. How does the gospel convince us that this is true? ...even in times of suffering and times when it seems as if God isn't answering?

## Prayer

Spend some time sharing needs. Share some things that we can shamelessly ask God for with regard to the larger vision of advancing the gospel in our city. Spend some time praying for these things, asking God to show us His heart and love for the people and city of San Diego.