



Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Leader note - Due to there being special guests this week, this is going to be a two-part sermon. So . . . do not feel the need to squeeze everything out of the text this week. Also, we will not be posting the sermon online because of the nature of the work of our guests and where they serve.

Ask, What do you think are the most important elements of prayer in your current prayer life? (There are no wrong answers and you might have to wait for people to answer.)

Read Luke 11:1-13

11 Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ² And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread, ⁴ and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."⁵ 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, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷ 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?' ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ 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!"

Ask, What are the kind of things you find yourself praying for in your current season? (for some it might be their work; current bills; children; parents; etc.)

Ask, Do you find that the things you pray for have changed based upon your season and circumstances?

The Lord's Prayer is a template for our prayers. Notice that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, right after Jesus had been praying.

Ask, Looking at verses 2-3, what are the elements that Jesus incorporates that might fit into His template for our prayers?

(Acknowledgement of the Father and the sacredness and holiness of His name; His provision in our lives; asking His forgiveness of our sins and our response to His forgiveness in forgiving others; and lead us not into temptation.)

Ask, How often do you use this template in your prayer time?

Ask, Which element of the template do you have a tendency to not spend much time praying?

Ask, which element of the template do you spend most of your time in prayer.

Encourage your group to pray for one another this week.