

## LUKE – CHAPTER 11

### PRAY

Spend a few moments together in prayer asking that you would be open to God's voice speaking through his Word today.

### READ

Take time to read through Luke chapter 11

### EXAMINE

In this study we will focus on Jesus guidance for prayer. First and foremost it's important to notice that Jesus himself is a pray-er. "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place." The disciples had observed this behaviour in Jesus and made some sort of connection in their minds between the prayer life of Jesus and the impact of his ministry and the depth of his relationship with the Father. In essence they looked at Jesus and said "I want that too." At the outset I invite you to approach this passage with the same mindset; "I want to pray like Jesus." Whilst we commonly refer to this prayer as "the Lord's prayer" it's also "the disciples' prayer." So let's join Jesus in prayer today and learn to pray the way Jesus taught us to.

1. The first word of prayer emphasises that we are joining with Jesus in his way of prayer. We address God as "Father" just like Jesus did (e.g. 10:21-22).<sup>1</sup> What is it like for you to address God in such a personal way?
2. Whilst we can call on God as "Father," we also "hallow" God's name. That is, we keep it holy. There are plenty of ways God's name is desecrated by the world (e.g. blasphemy) and it would be easy to focus on those. This prayer, though, is for *us* that *we* would keep God's name holy. What ways have Christians desecrated God's name? How can we avoid such actions?

**Christians hallow God's name in both word and action. When these two things contradict one another (when what we say is different to what we do) then Christians bring God's name into disrepute. As Christians we take on the name of "Christ" and we pray that God's name would be kept holy in us and through us.**

3. In praying that God's kingdom would come we recognise that the world is not as it should be. Justice, mercy, love and joy. These things and many more are what we want to see in the world. But evil is present. And so we pray that God's kingdom would come and he would reign in us and the world. What would the world look like if God reigned over all things?

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<sup>1</sup> Addressing God as "Father" does not mean that he is male, for God is Spirit and beyond gender. Rather, this word reminds us that God is a relational being who invites us into loving and personal relationship with him. God is our loving parent, we are his children.

4. The next part of the prayer is for our daily bread. What does “daily bread” look like in our day?

Daily bread is enough for this day. It's trusting God for today's supply as well as tomorrow's. This is living by faith at its most basic level. We need food to survive and the prayer acknowledges that, but also places our trust that God will supply our every need. Learning to be satisfied with enough is built into this prayer.

5. Forgiveness for others as we seek forgiveness is the next aspect of this prayer. Why do you think seeking forgiveness from God is linked to our forgiveness of others?
6. We should emulate God in the way we respond to sin. Being prepared to forgive when we are wronged is critical to living a godly life. If we do not know how to forgive others we haven't recognised the enormity of how God has forgiven us.
7. Verses 8-13 are an encouragement to be persistent in prayer. The comparison with the audacious neighbour and the gift from a parent are meant to exaggerate how good God truly is. Discuss “how much more” God will give us the Holy Spirit. Ask God to send his Holy Spirit to each other today.

## REFLECT

1. Think about how you pray. The Lord's prayer is both simple and deep. How can you bring that into your own prayer life?
2. Do you live believing that God will supply what you need for any given day?
3. Do you pray believing that God wants to give you the Holy Spirit?

## IMAGINE

1. List three things that have really stood out from this study.
2. Without worrying about any restrictions, what would the church look like if those things were always present? You might like to consider this from a global or local perspective (or both).

## PERFORM

1. What action can you take today (taking account of real world restrictions) that is a step towards that dream becoming a reality?

## PRAY

Spend time in prayer for each other, particularly for the actions you've committed to.

*For next week....*

1. Long Slow Read (LSR). Read chapter 12 slowly over the course of week. You can do this as many times as you like.
2. Tempo Read – Read and reread Chapter 12 several times. Take note of verses/phrases/characters that stand out – e.g. Jesus, Holy Spirit, poor, women.
3. Repeats – Choose one verse to memorise. Repeat it many times throughout the day and over the course of a week or so. Meditate on the verse and pray it in and out. Repeat the verse many times throughout your day.