

Pray Boldly Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Generally speaking, do you tend to ask for help quickly or try to figure things out on your own?
2. Do you like taking naps?

Read the following passage: Luke 11:1-13.

The Gospel of Luke only records a few instances in which the disciples make specific requests of Jesus. This observation suggests that the request in this passage was significant. Jesus' disciples are connecting their frequent observation of Jesus' wisdom, power, and peace with his life of prayer.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Can you think of any occasions in which God has answered one of your prayers? Explain.
2. Jesus told a parable implying that we should pray with "shameless audacity" (ESV: "impudence"; NAS "persistence"). Do you pray with boldness, persistence, and audacity? Explain.
3. On several occasions Jesus highlights the importance of persisting in prayer. (See also Luke 18:1-8.) Why do you think God sometimes does not seem to respond to our prayers immediately?
4. Many people have observed that regular prayer has been just as important for the internal changes it brought about in their own lives as it has been for seeing a change in their circumstances. What are some ways a consistent prayer life can change our lives?
5. The model prayer Jesus provided for his disciples was probably also intended to be an outline for our occasions of personal prayer, not merely a script specifying the exact words we should always speak to God in times of private devotion. (Jesus certainly expected his disciples to pray for longer than 10 seconds. See, for example, Matthew 26:40-41.) What are some things you might pray for in each of the "categories" that Jesus provides? (For example, what might go along with the prayer "hallowed be your name," or "your kingdom come"?) How do you decide what to pray for? What are some things you think God might want you to pray for more regularly?
6. Jesus makes a connection between our willingness to give good things to our children and God's much greater willingness to give good things to us. What are

some ways you have observed God's goodness in your life? Do you ever have trouble believing that God wants to do good things for you? Explain. When our circumstances might be such that we are tempted to question God's goodness and justice (like Job experienced), what can we do to help us keep God's goodness in view?

7. Jesus teaches us that the Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. How can the Holy Spirit help our prayer lives?
8. What is one way you would like to see your prayer life grown?
9. When and where do you plan on praying this week?

Pray