



Flipped from Apathy to Inspiration

Loving Prayer : Luke 11 v 1-13

Homegroup Questions:

Before diving into the passage together discuss as honestly as possible answers to the following questions about your prayer life, currently:

- Where and when and with whom do you pray?
- Do you use any set words or App's to guide your prayers?
- Do you keep a record of your prayers in anyway?
- Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the needs of those around you or the world and not know how to pray?
- Do you have any as yet unanswered prayers and do you struggle to pray as a result?

Now dive into reading the passage together and if time also compare our passage with Matt Chap 6 v 5 – 14 and play a game of spot the difference.

Questions to generate discussion about the passage.

1. In what ways was the Lord's prayer a distinctively new way to pray for Jesus's disciples?
2. How helpful do you find it is to prayer to God as your Father? Are there other names of God that you use when praying and how do they help your conversations with God?
3. What do you understand by praying the phrase "Your Kingdom Come"?
4. How often do you include a time of confession and a time of purposely forgiving others in your prayer life? Why is it important to do this and how often should you? (Refer to todays passages and Mark 11 v 24-25)
5. "Lead us not into temptation" or "Let us not fall into temptation" – which of these translations of verse 4b do you prefer and why?
6. What extra insights & encouragements do we get about how and when to pray, from the first story Jesus tells v5-10?
7. What extra incentive to pray is given by the second story Jesus uses v11-13?
8. In what ways do you "Catch" from God? Or How does God speak to you? Share testimonies of answered prayers.
9. From the Luke 11 passage what does prayer have to offer you?
(Pray is a way of connecting with a loving father whose name is holy and powerful, who can deliver on our daily needs, refresh our relationships by providing us with forgiveness and encouraging us to forgive others. He is also a spiritual sat nav, protecting our path

from the pitfalls of temptations. We are assured that our prayers will be answered – anytime of day or night and that God wants to give us good gifts – especially the gift of his Holy Spirit – quotes from the sermon)

10. What new ways are you going to try, to reignite and sustain your prayer life and help you prioritise your relationship with God?

(I suggested – use of Lectio 365 App or Pray as you Go App, using some liturgy – from a prayer book – maybe even one written in 1662 or before! Attending a prayer group or service (7am Thurs HTCD, 9am Zoom, Mon or Fri – link on website, 4pm 2nd Sunday Month at St James) Forming your own prayer triplet and meeting regularly to pray together. Creating a physical prayer space at home – a board or chair or bowl of pebbles, each one representing an area of prayer for you. Schedule prayer time or prayer time alarm on your phone. Go on an intentional prayer walk – try silent prayer or book a guided silent prayer retreat.)

Pray together for each other – that your relationships with God might be transformed as you pray more in the coming week and beyond.

Prioritise

Relationship with God,

Answers will come

You will be amazed!

Passages mentioned to read: (NIV)

Luke 11: Jesus' teaching on prayer

11 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.'

² He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

“‘Father,^[a]

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come.^[b]

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.^[c]

And lead us not into temptation.”^[d]

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, 'Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him."⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, "Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything."⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity^[e] he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

⁹ '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. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ 'Which of you fathers, if your son asks for^[f] a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ 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!'

For Comparison: Matthew 6

Prayer

⁵ 'And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ 'This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,^[a]
but deliver us from the evil one.^[b]”

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

And for reference in question 4:

Mark 11:

²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.’ ^[g]

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