

ENGAGE

Like Jesus

GROWTH GROUPS
WEEK 5
WEEK OF OCTOBER 14TH

GROWTH GROUP FALL 2018

WEEK 5 – OCTOBER 14, 2018 - LUKE 11:1-13

GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

- 1) Praying out loud can sometimes create awkward moments. Do you have an awkward prayer moment or have you experienced an awkward moment when it comes to praying out loud?

SETTING THE CONTEXT FOR LUKE 11:1-13

Jesus has gone off to pray. When he returns a disciple asks Jesus to teach them how to pray just like John the Baptist had taught his disciples how to pray. The prayer that Jesus teaches them is one that would have marked them as his disciples. Jesus' prayer was not for all people, but instead for those who were his followers and believed in his message.

The Lord's Prayer serves as a pattern for all Christian prayer and falls into three parts. There is an opening, then petitions that are made about God, and then petitions that disciples are to make for themselves.

To speak of God as Father is reserved for Jesus and those who follow him. It is not a title that all people should use. The prayer acknowledges both the present reality of God's kingdom, as well as the "yet to come" reality of God's kingdom. Believers know the kingdom has come, but also realize it has not reached its total fulfillment yet. Thus, believers are to keep praying for God's kingdom to come.

Believers are to ask for what they need for daily living and they are to practice forgiveness. Believers are not forgiven because we forgive others, but we are forgiven because of God's grace. We then live into that grace by forgiving others. The tense of the verb "forgive" is present tense which shows that we always need to be ready to forgive.

Jesus says to pray that we will not be lead into temptation. More than likely what is being described here is not so much..."don't cause us to enter temptation," but more along the lines of..."do not permit us to enter into temptation."

After teaching the disciples how to pray, Jesus adds a few more comments around prayer. Prayer is to be persistent. Prayer is described not so much as an imperative (you must ask in order to receive) but as more conditionally (if you ask, you will indeed receive). There is also an unspoken assumption around "ask, seek and knock" that prayer will be made according to God's will (see Luke 22:42).



EXPLORING THE TEXT

Read Luke 11:1-13

¹ 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, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.'" 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 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 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!"

- 2) What do you think motivated one of the disciples to ask Jesus to teach them to pray?
- 3) As you read through the prayer that Jesus teaches, what phrase sticks out to you the most? Why?
- 4) People sometimes use the acronym ACTS (A-Adoration, C-Confession, T-Thanksgiving, S-Supplication) to help arrange their prayers. When you pray, do you have a specific pattern that you use? Do you have a place where you regularly pray or a specific time?
- 5) What does the parable in verses 5-6 teach us about prayer?
- 6) What do verses 11-13 teach us about the way God relates to us and our prayer lives?
- 7) Jesus talks about asking, seeking and knocking and relates that to our prayer lives. Share a time when you felt that God answered your prayers? What did that do for your faith?

BRINGING IT HOME

- 8) As you share prayer requests have someone make a note of them and then check back in with each other in a month and see how God has been at work.