

LAUNCHING A LIFE OF PRAYER

Part 3 of Foundations 260. Luke 11-15; 11:1-13.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. January 26, 2025.

FOUR GREAT REASONS TO PRAY

The Lord's Prayer in Luke 11 offers four great reasons to pray.

- Prayer is following Jesus' example, Luke 11:1.
- Prayer is claiming our identity, Luke 11:1
- Prayer is making a big impact, Luke 11:2-4
- Prayer is getting answers from a good Father, Luke 11:5-13

JESUS ON PRAYER: Luke 11:1-13 (CSB)

He was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples." 2 He said to them, "Whenever you pray, say, Father, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone in debt to us. And do not bring us into temptation."

5 He also said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, 6 because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I don't have anything to offer him.' 7 Then he will answer from inside and say, 'Don't bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I have gone to bed. I can't get up to give you anything.' 8 I tell you, even though he won't get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his friend's shameless boldness, he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

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, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? 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?"

KNOW WHAT TO PRAY

Jesus gave his disciples a four-section template to follow.

Section One: Pray to God the Father - verse 2.

- We have been adopted into God's family through our spiritual union with Jesus Christ and his saving work.
- The Father welcomes us as children who need his love, care, and protection.

Romans 8:16 (CSB) The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children (see also John 1:12-13).

- Don't start prayer with the generic "God," but pray as a saved person and begin with "Father."

Section Two: Pray for the Return of Christ - verse 2.

- God's name is a way of saying God's reputation.
- It will be honored at the end of time when the Kingdom comes in its fullness. Ezekiel 36 looks forward to the end-times restoration of Israel at which time ...

Ezekiel 36:23 (CSB) I will honor the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations — the name you have profaned among them. The nations will know that I am the LORD — this is the declaration of the Lord GOD — when I demonstrate my holiness through you in their sight.

- That will happen when King Jesus returns to reign on earth.

Matthew 25:31-32 (CSB) "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him,"

- We ask God to fulfill all his saving purposes in the world.

Section Three: Pray for What We Need - verses 3-4.

- Daily bread: An umbrella term for everything we need.
- Forgiveness: Not for salvation. For cleansing from the everything that prevents us from enjoying God. Forgiven people forgive people.
- Protection from any trial or test that would destroy our faith.

Section Four: Pray Persistently with Positive Expectations - verses 5-13.

- Persistence in prayer, verses 5-8. God is more willing to answer than we are to ask.
- Positive expectations in prayer, verses 9-13. God will never hurt us in response to our requests. He wants the best for us.
- He may not answer how or when we want because he knows best.

KNOW HOW TO PRAY

Launching a life of prayer begins with a single step: Decide to do it.

Five practical ideas to consider:

- Schedule times for prayer.
- Use spontaneous and prepared prayers.
- Celebrate answered prayers.
- Pray with friends.
- Start small, dream big.

Resources

- Go to the Book Table for books and prayer sheets.
- Read this: <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/how-do-you-structure-your-prayer-life>

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

REVIEW

- Review Peter's January 26th teaching and study guide.
- What were the highlights of Luke 11:1-13 or Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- Use the S.P.E.C.K. method to reflect on and apply the teaching:
 - S: Sins to confess
 - P: Promises to claim
 - E: Examples to follow
 - C: Commands to obey or Christ to rest in
 - K: Knowledge or insights to consider

DISCUSS

- Share some of the ways you have found to pray more willingly, often, or effectively.
- What advice would you give to someone struggling to get started in a life of prayer?
- What counsel would you offer to someone wrestling with "unanswered" prayers?

PRAYERS

- Ask the Lord to send a prayer revival to the Cornerstone.
- Pray Colossians 1:9-13 over the group.