



STORY TIME

Great Life Lessons from the Parables of Jesus



LESSON 2 // IT PAYS TO PRAY

Big Idea: As a wise master teacher, Jesus often used stories—called “parables”—to communicate key spiritual truths. Two of these stories teach us valuable lessons about prayer.

Prayer is about personal interaction with God, not a transaction. He wants us to grow in a relationship with Him as our heavenly Father, not just as someone we get things from. Some prayers are only answered over time and God uses this time and persistence in our lives. Persistent prayer changes us and changes our world.

Luke 11:5-10 (NIV) *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; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ 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.’ 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. 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. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”*

Luke 18:1-8 (NIV) *Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*

Start Talking:

Talk about a time when you had to be very persistent in prayer until you saw God answer. Or perhaps you’re still praying persistently for something and can share about that. What have you learned in this process?

Start Thinking:

Read Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17. What does it mean to “devote yourself to prayer” (Colossians 4:2) and to “pray continually” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)?

Read Psalm 90:1-4; 2 Peter 3:8-9. How is God’s perspective of time different from ours? How should this affect your approach to prayer?

Read Zechariah 13:9; James 1:2-4. In what ways does persistent prayer in the face of challenging circumstances help us grow in our Christian faith and walk?

Read Luke 11:5-10; 18:1-8; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Colossians 4:12. How can praying persistently and boldly impact the world around you?

Start Praying and Doing:

Ask God to show you in a fresh way the value of consistent, persistent prayer.

Ask Him to shape your heart and mind to be more like His Son as you wrestle in prayer (Ephesians 4:12) and do battle against strongholds for the advance of His kingdom (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).