



Big Idea: We want to be quieter, healthier, slower, smarter, richer, more generous or better connected to those we love! Imagine what could happen if, before determining to do anything else, we made a single resolution, to draw near to the heart of our Heavenly Father. In this study series, we will look at Jesus' prayer life, and discover that when we pray like He prayed, his priorities and passions become ours.

Persistent

Scripture: Luke 11:5-13

Jesus taught his followers to pray simple prayers that echo the Father's heart.

Capture our Attention-

- a. A novel idea is gaining momentum in the last few years. People are downsizing to smaller cars and smaller homes. If you had to simplify your life of ten items in your life/home, what items would you let go of.
- b. Share your Take-A-Way from last Sunday's sermon. What insight or truth from the message did God allow to capture your attention? What are you doing to live out the implications of that truth?

Enlighten our Mind- Study the prayer life of Jesus.

Luke 11:5-13

1. Through this series we will be examining closely the prayer habits of our Lord Jesus. This study will influence our own attitude and practice of the habit of prayer to grow into a vibrant connection to God!

What question did the Disciples ask Jesus? (Luke 11:1)

What prompted this question? (Luke 11:1)

What was Jesus' answer? (Luke 11:2-4)

2. Read our key verses and highlight the words/phrases that stand out to you.

⁵ "Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: 'Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, ⁶ 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' ⁷ And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' ⁸ But I tell you this – though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence. ⁹ And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ You Father – if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? ¹² Of if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! ¹³ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.'" (Luke 11:5-13)

3. What illustrations about persistence does Jesus use in this passage?

4. What is the most important lesson in Luke 11:8?
- Friendships with people (and with God) have their limits when our need is inconvenient.
 - Keep asking with persistent anticipation of an answer.
 - You can wear God down to the point that He will give you the answer.
 - God will give you what you need.

What is something you have been bringing to God for a long time?

5. Read Luke 11:9-10, and list the promises that are stated in these words of Jesus.

What kind of things cause you to give up on a prayer need that you have been presenting to God?

Consider the illustration in verses 11-12, what reasons might a Father have to delay an answer?

What reasons might a Father have to give an answer?

6. What gift does Jesus say the Father will Give to those who ask Him (Luke 11:13)?

How does this gift help the believer communicate with our Father God (romans 8:26-27)

Simple Prayer in my Ordinary Life!

Receive it and Share it.

Luke records this very clear teaching from Jesus to His disciples, who had just asked him to teach them to pray. Imagine yourself asking to learn to pray like Jesus prays. The next few steps are intended to help you develop your conversations with God so you can learn to pray like Jesus prayed.

- What questions about prayer would you ask Jesus now that you have seen the priority of prayer in His life?
- What is the benefit of praying with shameless persistence? How does your persistence demonstrate your Faith and confidence in your Heavenly Father?
- Describe how you can pray for each other in your group with persistence and human urgency and still be respectful of your Father?

Your Prayer Journal- Spend some time writing in your journal expressing what you are learning about persistent, repeated requests to God. Write down two things that you would love for God to provide for you or your family/friends. Each day express your prayer request in a new way. Each day write an expression of your confidence that God will give you His best answer at the right time.

Ask the Holy Spirit who lives in you to help you as you have your conversation with God.

Pray an "Imagine" prayer for your group, neighborhood and city to wake up to life in Jesus.