



LIFE CHANGING
PRAYERS

EQUIP // CATHY BURKHOLDER // JULY 5, 2015

LUKE 11:1-13

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Jesus invites his disciples into a deeply personal relationship with God, encouraging them to call upon God using the same name he uses -- *Abba, Father*. He invites his disciples to call upon God as children call upon a loving parent, trusting that they belong to God and that God wants for them what is good and life giving.

WARM IT UP

1. To whom do you turn when you feel you need to talk?
2. Share an example from your life of persistence paying off.

TALK IT OVER

3. Read aloud Luke 11:1-13

What strikes you about the content of this prayer? (For comparison, see Matthew 6:9-13). Which phrase of the Lord's prayer is the part that is most important in your life right now? Explain.

4. What is Jesus' main point with his example in vv. 5-7?

5. What do verses 9-13 say to someone who feels like their prayers aren't being answered? (See also James 4:3).

6. In Luke 11:11-13, Jesus reinforces the invitation that if human parents, with all their faults, know how to give their children gifts that are good for them, how much more will our heavenly Father give good gifts to his children who ask of him, including and especially the gift of the Holy Spirit. What is Jesus trying to help us to understand in these verses?

WORK IT OUT

6. Author Anne Lamott suggests that all prayer boil down to three essential words: "Help", "Thanks", and "Wow." Examine the Lord's Prayer and see if you agree.

7. How do you balance your **CHAT**'s with the Lord: **C**onfess, **H**onor, **A**sk, and **T**hanks? Or using another acronym for prayer; **ACTS**: **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving and **S**upplication. Do you tend toward one over the others? Explain.

8. How do you incorporate prayer into your everyday life?

9. What obstacles stand in the way of your living out this verse, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thess. 5:16-18

Pray the Lord's Prayer together

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come:
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever.
Amen.

GOING DEEPER

What breath prayer do you find to be most helpful?

Examples:

God, have mercy on me
Lord Jesus, help me speak your word with boldness
Lord get me off the fence, and follow you
Show me your power, Lord Jesus
Forgive me, God
Lord, bring your healing
Hear my prayer, Lord Jesus

Additional resources:

Prayer Between Friends by Earl Palmer