

## Luke 11:1-13 | Jesus Teaches About Prayer

InterVarsity Bible Study Guide (60 minutes)

### WELCOME (7 minutes)

Icebreaker: Share something you dislike that other people generally like.

We are studying the Bible together because we want to grow in our love for Jesus through Scripture and because we want to grow in our witness to Jesus through Scripture.

Let's pray and ask God to help us as we study today's passage together...

### GROUP NORMS (3 minutes)

Let's remember our group norms as we study together today:

1. Use "I" statements (speak for yourself, not for everyone)
2. Avoid judgmental statements (no shame or blame)
3. Allow space for everyone to share if they choose
4. Practice active listening and give advice only if invited to do so
5. What we share here stays here (confidentiality)

### INTRODUCE the Scripture Text (3 minutes)

Now that we have been studying Luke together for a few sessions, let's watch a short video to help us better understand some of the background to this writing. [Introduction to Luke](#)

### SEE the Scripture Text (10 minutes)

Let's read the passage and talk about what we see.

- Who are the characters? How are they connected?
- What is happening? When? Where?
- Which words are being repeated?
- Is the author comparing or contrasting anything?
- Would you like to point out anything else you notice?

Luke 11:1-13 NIV

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."

<sup>2</sup> He said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> Forgive us our sins,  
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.  
And lead us not into temptation."

<sup>5</sup> 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; <sup>6</sup> a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' <sup>7</sup> 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.' <sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> "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. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup> "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> 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!"

### DISCOVER the Scripture Text (25 minutes)

Let's discuss a few questions that will help us discover and understand the text.

1. Let's resist the urge to compare this prayer to the more familiar version presented by the gospel of Matthew because Luke includes the details relevant to the message he is communicating. In Luke's version of this account, what themes do you see emerging from the way Jesus teaches the disciples to pray?
2. Why does Jesus tell a story about asking a friend for bread and being asked by your child for a fish?
3. Followers of a religious leader would have expected to have spiritual practices that set them apart as a community and helped them understand their identity together. How do you think this teaching from Jesus was intended to shape the communal identity of his disciples?
4. If we could communicate the core message of this text in just one sentence, what would it be? What do we sense God is communicating through this passage?

### RESPOND to the Scripture Text (10 minutes)

Jesus taught his disciples to pray in a way that honored the Father, asked for God's kingdom to become reality more and more around them, trusted God to provide, desired forgiveness, participated in forgiving others, and requested God's guidance. He then taught them about the character of God, one who is eager to respond to those who ask by giving good gifts, particularly the Holy Spirit. Jesus was shaping a group of followers who knew their relationship with the Father and were learning how to interact with the Father in prayer together.

Followers of Jesus pray together.

Let's discern together how we can respond to what God is saying. We will answer one option from below, whichever seems most relevant to our group's discussion of the text.

- A. What has been your experience of prayer? Share about a positive experience and a negative experience. Or, describe how you hope your prayer experiences could be.
- B. When you think of praying to God, what thoughts and feelings come to mind? How do you want your prayer life to grow?

C. What barriers do you face when you try to pray? Pray now to ask God to help you.

For resources on how to prepare and lead a prayer meeting, [click here](#).

**CLOSE (2 minutes)**

Let's pray and thank God for our time in Scripture together...

*Tips for leading the group discussion:*

- *Participate but keep your comments short to make space for others.*
- *Silence is okay. Encourage further discussion by saying "What else?" instead of commenting on every response.*