

# Jesus Taught His Disciples How to Pray

March 3, 2019

THE  
DISCIPLE  
MAKER

**Open:** What are some of the habits or practices you have regarding prayer?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 11:1-4

1. From verse 1, what do we learn about how discipleship worked in Jesus' day? How has your experience been similar to or dissimilar from the discipleship process we see here? Specifically with regard to prayer, what have you learned from others who have discipled you?
2. In your own words, how would you categorize the components of Jesus' prayer (vv. 2-4)? How do Jesus' requests compare or contrast with the requests that we tend to make in our prayers? What does this reveal about what might be missing from your own prayer life?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 11:5-13

3. Verses 5-7 gives a hypothetical situation of requesting bread from a friend. According to Jesus' words in verse 8, how is this illustration meant to influence our understanding of prayer?
4. "Ask," "seek" and "knock" are three words used in verses 9-10. How are these words similar to one another? How might they represent different goals and approaches to prayer? What would be an example of each type of request in prayer?
5. Verses 9-10 offer a guarantee regarding our prayers. How have you experienced this in your own prayers? What is happening when our experience doesn't seem to match such promises?
6. In verses 11-13, how does Jesus use the expectation of good from our earthly fathers with the expectation we should have of our Heavenly Father? What understanding does Jesus want us to operate with as we pray? What are practical ways this truth should affect the way we pray?
7. How would you summarize the lessons Jesus wanted his disciples to gain from this teaching on prayer? As believers, what can we do to better pass these lessons on prayer to others?

**Apply:** How will Jesus' teaching on prayer shape the way that you approach prayer this week?

**Pray:** Pray for each other's concerns, asking in faith that our Good Father will provide what is best. Ask God to help us all approach prayer in a way that reflects Jesus' teaching.

## Luke 11:1-13

<sup>[1]</sup> Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." <sup>[2]</sup> And 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> and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation."

<sup>[5]</sup> And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, <sup>[6]</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; <sup>[7]</sup> and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? <sup>[8]</sup> I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>[9]</sup> And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>[10]</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>[11]</sup> What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; <sup>[12]</sup> or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>[13]</sup> 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!" (ESV)