



## Gospel Community Notes & Questions

**Title:** The Practice of Prayer

**Text:** Luke 11:1-13

**Theme:** Prayer is the habit of seeking the Lord and gratefully surrendering all of life to him.

**Teaching Notes:** Praying isn't just "talking back to God." And it's not meant to be a rote, mechanical exercise, let alone a good luck charm. Prayer is a conversation where we learn to pour out our gratitude and praise to God, surrender our will to his, and trust him with our needs – no matter how big or small.

### Outline:

#### 1. The Precedent of Prayer. (vv. 1)

- Jesus had a habit of prayer because he desired intimate fellowship with the Father and Spirit, and he lived a life of humble dependency and surrender.

#### 2. The Pattern of Prayer. (vv. 2-4)

a. Adoration: "Hallowed be your name."

b. Acceptance: "Your kingdom come."

c. Asking.

1) For provision: "Give us each day our daily bread."

2) For pardon: "And forgive us our sins."

3) For protection: "And lead us not into temptation."

#### 3. The Persistence of Prayer. (vv. 5-8)

- Trust God enough to pray – and keep praying.

#### 4. The Promise of Prayer. (vv. 9-10)

- Keller: "God will either give us what we ask for or he'll give us what we would've asked for if we knew everything he knew."

#### 5. The Presence of Prayer (vv. 11-13)

- The greatest gift of God that we receive through a life of prayer is the gift of God himself.



**Questions to explore individually and with your group:**

1. How would you describe your practice of personal prayer now? When? How often? How much? Methods? What else do you observe?
2. What's your go-to motivation for praying? (When you pray, why are you praying – or what are you praying for?)
3. Consider the three types of prayer that were described in the message: prayers of adoration, acceptance, and asking:
  - Draw a pie chart of how you pray now.
  - What do you observe? (e.g. Are you missing something?)
  - What other categories of prayer would you add to these?
4. What are some healthy motives/types/categories of asking? What are some that are unhealthy? What do you tend to ask God for most? What do you think makes this healthy or unhealthy for you?
5. What are some plausible reasons why God doesn't give us all that we ask for, nor does he immediately give what we ask for? What might he be showing us about himself? What good might he be seeking to accomplish in our lives?
6. Think of a time when God didn't answer your prayers. He never gave you what you asked. (Maybe healing didn't come, or a resolution didn't happen, or an opportunity passed you by.) How does that square with his promise, "Ask, and it shall be given to you"?
7. How have you experienced the presence of God in prayer? How have you experienced the presence of God as a result of your prayer? How might your answers to these questions change as you realize that being satisfied in his presence one of the main reasons for praying?
8. What are some practical ways to seek the Giver more than the gift when you pray?
9. Remember the pattern of following Jesus? How does a deep and well-rounded prayer life help you with each of these?

association → education → imitation → replication
10. What's one practical, specific thing you'll do with the message this week?