

Objective: The new believer will learn the need to remain in Christ through prayer and walk away with a practical way to pray..

Kickoff Question: If you could ask Jesus to teach you how to do anything in the world, what would you ask him to teach you? Why would you ask him for this?

Context: The disciples actually had this opportunity. One day, one of the disciples asked Jesus to teach him something – it's the only recorded time in the Bible when someone asked Jesus to teach them something. What do you think he asked Jesus to teach them?

Read Luke 11:1 out loud. This disciple asked Jesus to teach them how to *pray*.

1. Q: Of all the things this disciple could have asked Jesus to teach them, why do you think he picked prayer?
Explain: If you read the book of Luke from chapter 1 until chapter 11, this would have been the 5th time you would read about Jesus praying. Jesus was showing the disciples that God was a reliable and trustworthy source for help. Wouldn't it be nice to have someone who doesn't just listen to your needs, but actually acts on your behalf?

Read Luke 11:2-4 out loud.

2. Q: What do you think the word pray means (v. 2)?
A: To pray literally means to ask God for something. When this disciple asks Jesus to teach them all how to pray, he's saying, "Jesus, will you teach me how to ask God for things the same way that you do?"
3. Q: What are some things Jesus says to pray for (v. 2-4)?
A: Your kingdom come, give us our daily bread, forgive us our sins, lead us not into temptation

Jesus then shares a story to show how to pray in a way God will answer. *Read Luke 11:5-13 on your own.*

4. Q: What happens in verses 5-6?
A: A guy goes to his buddy's house at midnight and asks for 3 loaves of bread
5. Q: How does his friend respond in verse 7? A: No!!
6. Read verse 8 out loud. Q: The man changes his mind and eventually gets up to give the friend some bread. What is the reason he changes his mind?
A: Not because he is his friend, but because of the man's persistence – his shameless audacity to ask
7. Read verses 9-10 out loud. Q: How can we be sure that Jesus will respond to us in this same way?
A: These verses give promises that if we ask, it will be given, if we seek, we will find, and if we knock, the door will be opened
8. Q: Obviously, this doesn't apply to every request we can think of. What needs do you think it applies to?
A: It applies to the needs Jesus lists in verses 2-4
9. Read verses 11-13. Q: What do you think these verses are saying?
A: They're saying that God is even better than one of our friends; he's a loving father who wants to specifically meet our needs.
10. Q: Is there a time when you asked for something and God didn't answer it?
A: I'm so sorry. I'm not sure why God did not answer your prayer, but God uses difficult times in our lives to make us mature and complete (James 1).

Bottom line: this story teaches us that God wants to give, but you have to ask. The heart of prayer is talking to a good and loving God who desires to meet our needs.

ACTS Prayer Method

Adoration (Psalm 145:3)

Praising God for His character and who He is. (Ex: God, you are infinite, holy, all-powerful, etc.). Spend time recognizing and appreciating God for who He is and how you have seen Him display His character.

Confession (1 John 1:9)

Simply acknowledging our wrongdoing to God. God already knows our shortcomings, but spending time agreeing with God that what we have done is wrong is vital to seeing progress in overcoming sin.

Thanksgiving (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Sometimes, thanksgiving can be confused with adoration. While adoration is praising God for who He is, thanksgiving is thanking God for what He has done.

Supplication (Luke 11:9-10)

This comes from the root word "supply." In supplication, we ask God to supply needs that we or those around us have. Pray for yourself, friends, family, and other needs in the world.
