



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK TWO - Jesus Over Our Needs

*NOTE: (The content in this study parallels the content in the Study and Prayer Journal created for this series)*

The disciples had a front row seat for the Way of Jesus. They saw how he walked, how he spoke, how he looked others in the eye, even how he prayed. They saw something compelling in the way he talked to God the Father. Ultimately, they were seeking to live like Jesus and to set their priorities accordingly. The prayer Jesus offered them gave them a tool to put their own lives in context of the Kingdom life. Jesus over our needs.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: 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!"

- I remember watching the adults in my hometown church pray in unison. They seemed to have a reverence and hope that I wanted to experience. They seemed to be so good at talking to God. But when I looked for help, they pointed me to the one who taught them, Jesus. They gave me a bookmark with the Lord's Prayer printed on it to put in my Bible. I read it until I knew it by heart. And then I experienced what it feels like to pray with the saints!

In Luke 11, Jesus was praying, which led to the disciples asking him to show them how. This is the rabbi/apprentice relationship right before our eyes. They saw what Jesus did, and then they wanted him to teach them how it was done. They wanted a bit of the connection that Jesus had with God the Father, and they were bold enough to ask for it. That's a good place for us to start this week—asking Jesus to lead us into a deeper connection with God.

- **Prayer Prompt: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1.17)**
- *Jesus, teach me how to become more like you. Teach me to pray to my heavenly Father that he might draw me deeper to himself. Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: LUKE 11.1-13 (NIV)**

- When the disciples asked Jesus for a prayer "just as John taught his disciples" (verse 1), they were implying that John the Baptist and his disciples had an identifying prayer that they prayed. It was most likely one of the common Jewish prayers that were known across the community. Jesus' disciples wanted a similar identifying prayer. He gave them a gift that was for more than their small band of believers. It has been a unifying prayer for the church ever since. It's why we often pray the Lord's Prayer on Sunday mornings.

Author Anne Lamott wrote, *Here are the two best prayers I know: 'Help me, help me, help me,' and 'Thank you, thank you, thank you.'* " You might read these and realize that you pray more than you thought! And both of those short prayers are ways of stating that we need God. Jesus didn't give them a theological treatise in hopes of impressing them. He gave them words that set the tone for a proper relationship with the Father. What are your most common words of prayer that seem to bubble up without thought? What do they say about your relationship with God?

- **Prayer Prompt: When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. (Matthew 6.6-7)**
- *God, Help me, help me. Thank you, Thank you! Amen.*

### WEDNESDAY: LUKE 11.1-13 (NIV)

- Matthew's version of the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6.9-13), includes language about heaven and our deliverance. In the prayer recorded in Luke, Jesus offered a very practical prayer. It's all about how to live faithfully today, in this life, in this world. Seeking what we need for each day, including the forgiveness of our sins. Although they have different emphasis, both versions lead us to the same place: a life of following the Way of Jesus all the way to the Kingdom of Heaven. How do your prayers today connect with a larger vision of all that God is doing through Jesus? If you ask for daily bread, is it about surviving another day or moving towards Heaven on earth, or both?
- **Prayer Prompt: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4.6-7)**
- *Lord God, you are the One who provides for me. Give me what I need for today, and strengthen me for a life of following your Son. Amen.*

### THURSDAY: LUKE 11.1-13 (NIV)

- In verse 5-8, we can see how open God is to our prayers. He loves to hear from us, and He loves to respond. He is not annoyed by our persistence as we might be with others'. This short parable reveals much about our prayer life. Notice that it was a friend asking a friend for help *on behalf of another friend*. Why is this significant? It's fair to guess that the friend in bed may have gotten out of bed for the friend at the door, but it's a third party situation! I would help my neighbor, but would I help my neighbor's neighbor? Jesus says that God will answer our prayer and come to the aid of those we lift up to Him. We should be persistent in prayer. For whom are you currently seeking help from God? Is anyone lifting you up to God right now?
- **Prayer Prompt: Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5.16)**
- *Our Father in Heaven, hear our prayers for daily bread, and for our hungry neighbors in need. Amen.*

### FRIDAY: LUKE 11.1-13 (NIV)

- We learn in verses 11-13 that God is not a trickster or a gotcha-God. The contrast to the father who would give his son a snake or a scorpion instead of something good is obvious. Our God (who is already a far superior parent than we could ever be) wants to give His children good things.

If you find yourself with an unwanted snake or scorpion in your hand (literally or metaphorically I suppose!), then that is not from God. A good father would never do that. And as Jesus emphatically proclaims, our Heavenly Father is good.

We've sung a song in worship for the last several years that includes these lines:

*You're a good, good Father  
It's who You are  
And I'm loved by You  
It's who I am*

*Spend some time reflecting on (a) times when you may have doubted the goodness of God, and (b) undeniable examples of His goodness in your life.*

- **Prayer Prompt: Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? (Matthew 6.26)**
- *God, you are always so much more ready to hear my prayers than I am to pray them. Hear my heart and show me once again that you are a good Father. Amen.*

### **SATURDAY: LUKE 11.1-13 (NIV)**

- The teaching from Jesus this week has been misunderstood at times. We might think that God is like a vending machine where we put our requests in and get what we ordered. The truth is that God is also forming our desires. When we make requests in Jesus' name, and we are (as disciples) becoming more and more like Jesus, then our prayers will begin to reflect that. The desire of our hearts will become more and more about what we really need, what our neighbors really need, and what will glorify God.

As a young kid, I remember the things that I desired. I don't think I ever presented my Christmas list to God in prayer, but I can say that the desires of my heart have changed so drastically over years of following Jesus, that they would look different, and hopefully more like what God desires for me. How have your desires shifted over the years?

- **Prayer Prompt: Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37.4)**
- *Almighty God, I give you my heart today. Transform what my heart goes after, may it go after You! Amen.*