

PROMISES WORTH KEEPING

Prayer

...it's not what, but how



GROWTH GUIDE SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

AUTHOR

Luke, a Greek, Gentile Christian, and physician, wrote his gospel around A.D. 60, from Rome or possibly Caesarea. He also wrote Acts, which is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Luke was a close friend and companion of the apostle Paul and wrote to Theophilus, which means one who loves God. Luke focuses on Jesus' relationships with people. His purpose in writing was to present an accurate account of the life of Jesus and to present Jesus as the perfect human and Savior.

CONTEXT

Prayer was an important part of Jesus' life. Who better to learn about prayer from than Jesus – he is our best role model. Scripture records 25 prayers of Jesus including the prayer we study today, known to us as the Lord's prayer and probably the most famous prayer in the Bible. Jesus prayed at major events of his life such as at his baptism, when he chose his disciples, while in Gethsemane and even on the cross. Jesus also understood the value of silence and solitude and would go away by himself away from the crowds so he could talk with God and be recharged for ministry.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 11:1-13. What are your earliest memories of prayer and who taught you to pray?
2. How is your prayer life today? Take some time to share with one another what is helpful in your prayer life and what hinders it.

3. There is a quote from F.B. Meyer: "The greatest tragedy in life is not unanswered prayer but unoffered prayer." Do you agree with this?
4. Do you find it difficult to talk to God sometimes? Intimidating? Comforting?
5. In Luke 11:1-4, Jesus made five requests of God. What are they?
6. Read Matthew's version of The Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-15 and compare to Luke's version. How do these versions differ?
7. In Luke 11:3, Jesus says give us each day our daily bread, asking for food to sustain life for the day. While we of course need physical food, we also need spiritual food. What sustains you spiritually? Is there anything you are yearning for or would like to add to your prayer or spiritual life?
8. In Luke 11:5-13, Jesus teaches about prayer through two parables. In Luke 11:5-8 compare the friend with God when approached with a need. What can we learn about prayer from this parable? Our circumstances may not always change but how does prayer change us?
9. Jesus teaches about prayer through the 2nd parable, Luke 11:9-13. What encouragement do you receive in this parable? What do you learn about God's love for us?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Jesus' discipline of prayer can inspire us in our own prayer life.

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