

Sermon: Praying to Our Father.
Series: Foundations of Faith.

Scripture: Luke 11: 1-13.
Date: January 5, 2025

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) When Jesus teaches us to pray he tells us to address God as our Father. What does this teach us about both the nature of God and the nature of prayer. Consider verses 11-13. What kind of father is our God? How do we know? What has he given us to prove his Fatherly love?

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) How is your prayer life? In what ways would you say that it does or does not reflect the bold, persistent, impudence of Luke 11:5-10?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) How does the image Jesus gives us of a good Father who gives us good gifts, including the Holy Spirit, point to the gospel of grace? Specifically, how does it give a preview of our union with Christ. Read Romans 8:14-17 and consider our son-ship in Christ as the fulfillment of Jesus' teaching here in Luke 11.

APPLICATION

a) For each of these five ideas in the Lord's Prayer consider how you might pray in the same way (not a mantra but a template):

- *Father, hallowed be your name* – Is God's glory your highest priority in prayer?
- *Your kingdom come* – Do your requests reflect Christ's kingdom (love, justice, mercy)?
- *Give us our daily bread* – What do you need today? Do you bring your needs to God daily?
- *Forgive us our sins, for we forgive everyone indebted to us* - Do you struggle to trust God's forgiveness? Do you struggle to forgive others?
- *Lead us not into temptation* – Do your prayers engage with the reality of spiritual warfare? Do you pray for the Spirit's guarding of your heart with the gospel?

PRAYER

- Thank God for adopting you as his child who can approach him with all boldness.
- Confess ways that you have lost your faith in prayer.
- Thank Jesus for facing rejection on the cross so that we might never be rejected by God in prayer.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to persist in prayer knowing the heart of the Father is always for you.