



## Weekly Bible Study Schedule

**Tuesday, February 2, 7:00-7:50 AM**

**FIRST FLOOR ROTUNDA**

**Capitol Commission is  
NON-PARTISAN and NON-  
DENOMINATIONAL**

Today's study is from Luke 11:1-13. **The Big Idea of Discipleship is Prayer.** The big idea could just as well be unity. In the text, the word "us" is mentioned 5 times. The connection between prayer and unity is a Kingdom value. The Western view is individualistic – "I pray". An Eastern mindset thinks kinship, family, and connection. The first century Mediterranean view was community – "We pray". Praying together builds community; a spiritual bond would give the new group a sense of identity.

### 11:1 – PETITION

**"Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."**

Jesus not only teaches a model prayer He is the model pray-er (as in Luke 3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28). The idea of community begins with the Trinity: God, the Father, Son, and Spirit - three in one are in perfect unity. Jesus wants to give the disciples a prayer that they could share together and identify this emerge community of faith.

### 11:2 – PRAISE

**"Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon.**

The disciples needed to understand that the mighty, holy, and loving God is the one they will talk to. This unmatched creator of the heavens and earth will listen to their prayers. God will listen to your prayers, regardless of how big or small the ask. He is interested in you.

The Kingdom of God is in progress as Jesus ushered it in. The prayer is for God's will to be done. As the disciples pray they need to keep priority God's Kingdom purposes. Think of it as expanding in and through this new community of faith. From village to village the message of Jesus is proclaimed, healings and miracles demonstrated, demonic forces paralyzed, and the marginalized welcomed. Eventuality is the culmination of God's Kingdom with the eradication of evil, unrighteousness judged, righteousness rewarded, new heavens and new earth, no more sickness, and no more death. The revelation of God's love, justice, holiness, and the rule and reign of God are complete.

### 11:3-4 – PRAYER

**Give us each day the food we need,**

When the disciples pray for daily bread they recognize God as their provider. They can count on God to continually meet daily needs. It is a daily request for each other. If one prays for bread, one prays for others to have bread.

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Notice the word "as", the request is forgive us AS we forgive others. Expectation here is for the requester of forgiveness to give forgiveness, just AS God forgives, and in the manner God forgives. If we ask, God forgives. He does it with love and mercy. He does it swiftly and then chooses to forget our sin. Should we who follow Jesus do anything less? What might it look like if the community of faith forgave each other the way God forgives us? The more we forgive the more we are like God.

**And don't let us yield to temptation."**

Here the disciples are instructed to pray for spiritual protection, a spirit of dependency on God. Our submission to God prevents yielding to situational temptation, and as a means to developing spiritual fortitude before facing temptation.

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**11:5-8 – PERSISTENCE**

Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, ‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.’ But I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.

The Honor-Shame culture creates a tension. The friend must decide whether or not he is going to disturb his sleeping family and help the petitioner save face with his unexpected guests. At first the friend resisted: “It’s late, my family is asleep, the door is locked”, his posture was not a lack of resource, it was willingness.

A game changing theme Jesus brings forth in this passage is that God is approachable. *Hebrews 4:16 says: Enter boldly to “God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need”*. You do not need to wait for a raised scepter God is always accessible to you. God is gracious and compassionate to provide for those that ask. If the annoyed friend responded to boldness, you and I can confidently present ourselves to God.

**11:9-10 – “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.**

Jesus instructs to keep praying. If the friend does not grant the request at first, keep seeking. If the friend is slow to respond, keep knocking. If the friend resists, keep asking. The disciples are to pray boldly and shamelessly asking, seeking, and knocking and the door will open making way the meeting of their gracious and merciful, loving and compassionate God. Yes, it is personal - God will meet your needs, and yes, it is communal - He will answer the community’s requests. Place God first, and

be confident that He will meet your need. *“Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you”*. (Matt 6:33)

**11-13 – PARENTAL**

**“You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”**

Jesus drives the point home God is willing to answer prayer. A relational shift takes place from neighbor and friend, to father and son. It would be unthinkable of a father to give his son a snake when he asks for a fish, or a scorpion when the son asks for an egg. Fish and eggs sustain the body. It is food the son needs. Earthly parents are flawed, and yet, they would not give harmful gifts. So, “how much more will God our Father answer His child’s prayer”? *“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)

The Holy Spirit guides, reveals the Scripture, offers wisdom, empowers disciples to bring bold prayers to God, and a bold message of faith to people. He works in followers to participate in the Kingdom activity.

**Conclusion**

Jesus’ model of prayer is set in community. Our triune God is perfectly other-centered. He is our model for community – pray for ourselves, pray for others, receive forgiveness for ourselves, give forgiveness to others, eat bread, share bread. What might it look like if this session the matters we pray for ourselves we would pray for others? The needs we present to God, we would ask the same of God for others? Community thrives when in a relationship with God, and friendship with your colleagues.

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God is accessible to you. Boldly approach God with your prayers. He will answer.

