

## Discussion Guide (Luke 11:1–13) November 26, 2017

We're continuing our break from Romans with a look at Luke's Gospel, specifically 11:1–13, in which Jesus instructs his disciples to pray. The passage can be broken into two sections. In the first section (vv1–4), Jesus gives them a "model prayer," what we call "the Lord's Prayer" today. In the second section (vv5–13), he rounds out this picture of prayer with some instruction concerning *how* to pray.

1.) Read Luke 11:1–4. Now, break down the "Lord's Prayer" into its individual phrases and consider each part, one at a time. Because this is a model prayer more than a prayer to recite word for word, how can you pray in a way that reflects each part?

- "Father, hallowed be your name."
- "Your kingdom come."
- "Give us each day our daily bread,"
- "and forgive us our sins,"
- "for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us."
- "And lead us not into temptation."

2.) Read Luke 11:5–10. In the ancient world, being a good host was very important, and it was not uncommon to have unexpected guests! That's a dangerous combination. You can see, then, why this man would knock on his neighbor's door in the middle of the night.

- How would you characterize the host in the parable?
- Why does Jesus put him forward as an example of prayer?
- Examine your heart. Do you pray this way? Do you feel like praying with boldness like this is inappropriate? How does this parable challenge your prayers? How does this parable encourage you to pray?

3.) Read Luke 11:11–13. A common type of "parable" argues from the lesser to the greater. (Example: If an ant can pick up a leaf, an elephant definitely can.)

- What is the point of Jesus' illustration here?
- How does this correct a misreading of the previous parable that God is like the man *being asked* for bread?
- Why do you think Jesus concludes his teaching by noting God's willingness to give the Holy Spirit to his children?