

praying like a master

THE ART OF PRAYER | LUKE 11:1-12 | AUGUST 27/28, 2016 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

"Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1)

The *What* of Prayer (Luke 11:1-4)

Addressing the Father

Declaring His Name and His Kingdom

Requesting what we need: provision, forgiveness, endurance

The *How* of Prayer (Luke 11:5-10)

With shameless audacity

By asking, seeking, knocking

The *Who* of Prayer (Luke 11:11-13)

The Father above all fathers

The Gift above all gifts

1. What is the best gift you ever received from a parent or grandparent? How did it shape the way you viewed them?
2. This week we continue our series "The Art of Prayer" from the Gospel of Luke. As you begin your study, ask God to guide you into a deeper life of prayer with Him. Then, whether you are with a group or on your own, read Luke 11:1-13 aloud.
3. This passage is the longest stretch of teaching on prayer in Luke's Gospel. What do you notice about the beginning of this teaching? What prompts Jesus to teach on prayer?
4. Luke 11:2-4 parallels Matthew 6:9-13 and is usually known as The Lord's Prayer. It is really the disciples' prayer, showing us the heart of what Christian prayer is all about. Why do you think it is significant that we address God as 'Father' when we pray?
5. Jewish prayers or benedictions often included mention of God's name and kingdom. What would you say is the importance of this aspect of Jesus' model prayer in verse 2?
6. What are the three main requests in the prayer found in verses 3-4?
7. Some traditions encourage believers to regularly say the words of this prayer together to shape our minds, desires and language for prayer around Jesus' teaching. Take a moment, whether on your own or with others, to slowly pray these words back to God. Perhaps you may want to take some extended time on each phrase, lifting up your own words related to the phrase you just prayed.
8. The small parable in Luke 11:5-8 aims to help us understand our approach to prayer through an argument from smaller to greater. The Middle Eastern value of hospitality figures prominently in this parable as hosts are obligated to thoroughly care for guests. What does this parable teach us about our approach to prayer?
9. Jesus offers three significant words that describe the life of prayer in Luke 11:9-10. How would you define them:
 "ask": _____
 "seek": _____
 "knock": _____
10. How have you experienced prayer as asking, seeking, and knocking? How might you grow in that?
11. The final illustration in verses 11-13 is another comparison from smaller to greater similar to the parable in verses 5-8. What would you say is Jesus' point in this illustration?
12. What is one significant thing you are learning through this study? How might you put that into practice this week as you pray? Whether on your own or with a group, take some time to pray based off of what God was speaking to you during this study.

[Next week we continue our series on prayer by looking at Jesus' labor of prayer in Luke 22:39-46. Read that passage ahead of time to prepare.]