

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Teach Us to Pray

Title: Ask God

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Text: Luke 11:5-13

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WARM-UP

Do you have a story to tell about asking someone for help? How did your level of desperation affect your request? Why are we hesitant to ask for help?

DISCUSSION

Jesus makes this simple and direct point in teaching us to pray. Do you have a need? Then ask God. Most of us have a gap between prayer in theory and prayer in practice. So we overthink our prayer with questions. We sink our prayer with doubts. But Jesus teaches us to ask God for what we need in prayer and not give up praying.

1. When you read the parable of the village friends providing hospitality to a late night guest, what point(s) does the story make about our lives and prayer? (Also read Luke 18:1-8). What questions do these parables raise for you about prayer?
2. Is the primary focus of prayer to ask God for help?
3. Why are we to continue to pray for something if, the first time we pray, we believe God for our request? Isn't that unbelief?
4. In Luke 11:9-10, Jesus makes a memorable application about to how to pray - Ask, Seek, Knock (you can always remember the acronym: ASK). How does this encouragement help you to pray?
5. Most of us have a gap between prayer in theory and prayer in practice. What is in that gap for you?
6. How can fear of God's response keep us from praying boldly and persistently? How does Jesus answer this concern? (Luke 11:11-13)
7. Why can the Holy Spirit be considered the Father's best gift?
8. What do you do when you believe and are confident it is God's will, yet nothing happens when we pray?
9. Why does God delay to answer prayers that seemingly would be for His glory to answer now?

PRAYER

1. Father, I want to thank you for...
2. Father, know that you are good and giving because...
3. Father, I have found it difficult to persist in prayer because...
4. Father, I will persist in prayer to ask, seek, knock for...