

Learning to Pray with Jesus: Confidence in Prayer

Luke 11:1-13 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 3 April 2022

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What is your favorite part of your home? Least favorite? Why?

Worship: [Psalm 34](#) (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?*)

Sermon Summary for [Luke 11:1-13](#) (*Read aloud before reading the sermon summary.*)

Our Father wants us to commune with Him – opening ourselves to Him in prayer. But we're often left wondering if our prayers work. How do we pray with confidence, knowing that God will hear us? Throughout Luke's gospel, we see one constant: Jesus in prayer. It was central to His life and ministry, and therefore we know it is central to the life of the church. Christ's prayers were bursting with confidence that they would be heard and answered.

We gain confidence in prayer as we lean into God's pattern // Jesus's disciples come to Him, knowing He communes deeply and personally with God, and they ask Him to teach them how. Because of the timing of His lesson, we get the sense that Jesus teaches them to pray how He just did. So this version of the Lord's Prayer – while different from [Matthew 6](#) – still shows us where His mind and heart are when He prays. And we see that the power of prayer isn't in saying things right; there are no "magic words" or correct pattern to praying that better gets God's attention. Jesus offers us a flexible outline to help us more authentically and deeply commune with our Father. And this should give us confidence that God wants to – and does – listen to our prayers. We may not pray a version of the Lord's Prayer every time we come to God. But we can use it as our baseline pattern for prayer:

"Father, hallowed be your name" >> Asking God to make His name great throughout creation. May those wonders draw people to Him. And may we as His people bring glory to His name.

"Your Kingdom come" >> Praying for Jesus to bring the fullness of His reign, thanking Him that it's already begun. May this fill our lives so we might live as ambassadors to the Kingdom to those not yet in the light.

"Give us each day our daily bread" >> Like the divine promise of manna for Israel in the wilderness, may we be dependent on God for the fundamentals of life, so we might survive and flourish.

"Forgive us our sins as we forgive" >> May we know the release of the Gospel of forgiveness through prayer. May we become people of release as well, spreading the grace of forgiveness wherever we go.

"Lead us not into temptation" >> May we not turn God's spaces of testing and refining into places where we look for other gods to save us. And when we do fail, may our Father draw us back to Himself.

We gain confidence in prayer as we lean into God's friendship and honor // Christ wants us to be personally connected to the Father – to pray in a way that accurately recognizes God as Almighty Creator, Father and Redeemer. We, who are by nature God's enemies, have amazingly become His friends through Christ. Out of this friendship, we're encouraged to pray with the boldness children have when they take their needs to their parents – insistent, refusing to give up, no time is the wrong time. God's honor compels us to act this way – out of a sense of obligation and privilege because He delights in honoring His name. And because God will arise and act on behalf of those in need, we ought to bring our requests to him with deep confidence and assurance.

We gain confidence in prayer as we lean into God's goodness // The goodness of God is the foundation of all our asking and hoping and persevering in prayer. Our prayers are meant to be rooted in the adoptive love of the Father through the Son. We need to learn to live with God as our Father. He is utterly good and wise and powerful. And we must learn to live under His rule and discipline... *because* He is rich in mercy, care, goodness and love. Prayer therefore gains confidence from the utter goodness of God, even when we can't see it. We pray with hope – not because we expect to get our way, but because God will always, always give us Himself in prayer. He gives us His Spirit, no matter what else we may be asking for. As we take to heart that we are the Almighty's adoptive children, we realize that our story isn't really our story. We are a part of something so much grander than that. So we can't expect or demand things to go our way. Instead, we look to our loving Father for guidance and light and hope.

Discussion Questions (*You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.*)

We gain confidence in prayers as we lean into...

God's Pattern

- How do you interpret God's actions in the reading?
- What is the pattern of prayer found in the Lord's Prayer?
 - Pastor Paul describes this prayer as a script. What do you think he meant by that?
 - What is your relationship like with the Lord's Prayer? Is it part of your prayer practice?

God's Friendship and Honor

- What does it look like to pray to God as our friend?
- Boldness and brazenness. These are the words Pastor Paul used to describe the prayer life of someone who prays to God as a friend. Do you feel these words reflect your own prayer life?
 - If yes, what helped you pray like this?
 - If not, what small step(s) might help move you closer to this type of prayer?

God's Goodness

- God is the giver of good gifts. What gets in the way of this truth?
 - In the space of unanswered prayers, how do we return to God's goodness?
 - How do we accept God's story for our lives when things don't go the way we think they should?
 - When things are hard in prayer, how do we stick with it rather than running away?
 - How do we stay in the story of prayer together?
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Prayer

Continue to pray for the situation in Ukraine, for peace, Christ's mercies and intervention. Pray for our Pastoral Search Team nominations and process. Pray for new and non-believers to attend the Christianity Explored Classes. For this week's Prayer Guide for personal or group use, click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Prayer & Gratitude

In your prayer times this week use the pattern of prayer found in [Luke 11:2-4](#): Adoration, Mission, Provision, Forgiveness, Protection.

Leader Gathering, Saturday April 9th 9-10am - We have the privilege of a special conversation with Richard Pratt, author of [Pray With Your Eyes Open](#). It is not necessary to have read any of the book to get a lot out of this conversation with Richard Pratt. All community groups are invited to this one-hour event. This gathering will be held on Zoom, please register at this link <https://pacificcrossroads.tpsdb.com/OnlineReg/4083> to receive the Zoom link.