

# Lord, Teach Us to Pray

## THE GOSPEL OF LUKE | PT. 3

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*Luke 11:1-13 // Todd Dugard // June 25-26, 2016*

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### WARMING UP

1. What is the biggest prayer request that God has answered for you? What is the biggest request that you are still praying for?

### DIGGING IN

*When it comes to prayer, you might say . . .*

2. *"I feel pretty inadequate about it" and Jesus says, "Admit the struggle" (v. 1)*
  - In what ways do you sometimes feel inadequate when it comes to prayer? Why is this a misunderstanding?
  - What are the basic requirements in order to "pray well"? How is prayer something that every Christ follower should be able to do?
3. *"I don't know what to say" and Jesus says, "Follow this pattern (v. 2-4)*
  - Pastor Todd said, "The purpose of the Lord's Prayer is not to have us memorize and mimic it, but to embody its spirit and emulate its pattern." What does this mean at a practical level?
  - Jesus outlines six elements to include in our prayers: "Father," "hallowed be your name," "your kingdom come," "give us each day our daily bread," "forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us," and "lead us not into temptation." Unpack each phrase in turn. What does it indicate? What are the implications?
4. *"I give up on it too easily" and Jesus says, "Persist in asking" (v. 5-10)*
  - When it comes to prayer (or other spiritual practices), why do we often start strong but then fizzle out? Have you experienced this?
  - How does Jesus' parable in v. 5-8 (and then his comments in v. 9-10) make the point that persistence in prayer pays off? On what basis are we able to be bold in coming before the Lord?
  - Søren Kierkegaard said, "The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays." What you think about this statement? Have you found it to be true personally?
5. *"I doubt God will answer" and Jesus says, "Trust me to care for you" (v. 11-13)*
  - Do you have any prayer requests that, if being honest, you wonder if God will answer or if he even hears? How does Jesus address this line of thinking?
  - How is our commitment to prayer directly affected by our trust in God?

### BREAKING OUT

6. No time can be better spent on this earth than in the presence of our heavenly Father, pouring out our hearts to him in prayer. Do that now.