



Good Shepherd
Sermon-Based Study Guide
Luke 11:1-13 | August 2, 2026

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I. Introduction to this Study

After watching Jesus pray, one of his disciples asks, “Lord, teach us to pray.” Jesus responds by giving his disciples a model for prayer, telling a surprising story about a midnight request, and reminding them that God is a generous Father.

The friend in Jesus’ story is not meant to be a perfect picture of God. He is a contrast: if even a reluctant and inconvenienced friend will provide what is needed, how much more can we trust our heavenly Father? The passage invites us not only to believe that God is generous, but to consider why we still hesitate to approach him in prayer.

II. Connecting with One Another

When you were a child, what was something you repeatedly asked your parents for? Did they give it to you—and looking back, do you think their answer was good for you?

III. Study the Text

Read Luke 11:1-13

- What problem does the man face when his guest arrives? Why might he be willing to inconvenience another household to meet this need?
- What reasons does the friend inside the house give for not helping? What eventually causes him to get up and provide the bread?
- How does the cultural importance of hospitality help you understand the actions of both men?
- Jesus is making a contrast rather than saying that God is exactly like this reluctant friend. What does the comparison teach us about God?
- What actions and promises are repeated in verses 9–10? How do they encourage active and confident prayer?
- What would a good earthly father never give his child in response to a request for food? What does this reveal about the difference between receiving exactly what we request and receiving what is genuinely good?



- According to verse 13, what gift does the heavenly Father give to those who ask? Why might the Holy Spirit be a greater answer than simply receiving everything we request?
- Looking at the entire passage, what reasons does Jesus give his disciples to approach God confidently?

Reflect and Respond

- When a need or problem arises, what do you usually do first? At what point does prayer enter your response?
- Which obstacle most often makes prayer difficult for you?
 - Feeling capable of handling things yourself
 - Busyness or distraction
 - Uncertainty about what to say
 - Fear that God will not answer
 - Disappointment from previous prayers
- Is there something you have stopped asking God about because you have become discouraged or cynical? What would it look like to bring that honestly before your Father again?
- How would your prayers change if you truly trusted that God knows your needs better than you do and always gives what is genuinely good?

IV. Digging Deeper

Jesus frequently argues from a lesser example to a greater reality: if something is true in an ordinary human situation, how much more can God be trusted to act according to his perfect character?

- **Matthew 6:25–34** — If God feeds the birds and clothes the grass, how much more will he care for his children?
- **Luke 12:22–32** — God knows what his children need and calls them to seek his kingdom.
- **Luke 18:1–8** — If an unjust judge eventually grants justice, how much more can God be trusted to hear his people?
- **Romans 8:31–32** — If God did not spare his own Son, how will he not also graciously give us what we need?

V. Prayer

Spend time in prayer together:

- Thank God for inviting us to approach him as Father.
- Confess the ways you rely upon control, independence, or worry before turning to prayer.
- Bring before God a request you have avoided because of discouragement or fear.
- Ask the Father to give you the wisdom, strength, and presence of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for greater confidence in God's generosity and greater trust in his wisdom when his answers differ from your desires.

