

Message Notes | Prayer

Part 3: Persistence in Prayer

Luke 11:5-13

→ feeling desperate or overwhelmed

#1 God invites you to _____ desperation and worry with _____.

→ Jesus tells a parable - **vs. 5-8**

→ God wants you to pray persistently - **vs. 9-10**

#2 Persistent prayer has the _____ to influence _____.

→ Biblical examples

#3 Persistent prayer includes a _____ of _____.

→ a key attitude in the Lord's Prayer - **vs. 11-13**

#4 Persistent prayer has the _____ to influence _____.

→ Psalm 25:15, Matthew 11:28, Philippians 4:6-7

Group Questions | Prayer

Part 3: Persistence in Prayer

Luke 11:5-13

1. Is there a situation about which you are currently feeling desperate or overwhelmed? How have you been trying to navigate that situation? What role has prayer played thus far?
2. **Read Luke 11:5-8.** In Jesus' parable, the man keeps knocking even when the neighbor says "go away." What does this story teach us about prayer?

What does it teach us about God? (Is he like a grumpy neighbor?)
3. **Read Luke 11:9-10.** Jesus invites us to "keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking." Is there a difference between persistent prayer and empty repetition?
4. **Read Genesis 18:22-32.** Abraham persistently pleaded with God for Sodom. What stands out to you in Abraham's approach to God? What can we learn from his persistence?

Have you ever seen prayer influence outcomes?
5. **Read Luke 11:11-13.** Jesus reminds us that God knows how to give good gifts to his children. What does it look like to pray persistently while also surrendering to God's will?
6. **Read Philippians 4:6-7.** How does the process of persistent prayer have the power to bring peace?

Have you ever experienced God's peace through prayer, even when circumstances didn't change? Explain.
7. What's one situation or person that you want to start praying more persistently for this week? How can your group help keep each other encouraged in that?

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#1 God invites you to navigate desperation and worry with persistent prayer.

→ Jesus tells a parable - **vs. 5-8**

→ God wants you to pray persistently - **vs. 9-10**

#2 Persistent prayer has the power to influence outcomes.

→ Biblical examples

#3 Persistent prayer includes a heart of surrender.

→ a key attitude in the Lord's Prayer - **vs. 11-13**

#4 Persistent prayer has the power to influence you.

→ Psalm 25:15, Matthew 11:28, Philippians 4:6-7

Bible Reading for Today

Luke 11:5-13

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' ⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity^[a] he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

⁹ "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for^[b] a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"