



September 14-15
“A Friend at Midnight”
Luke 11:1,5-13

Home Group discussion questions are written by Pastor Art Hunt.
Contact him at art@lighthousehome.org.

Connect: As a new believer, how did you learn how to pray? If you had a discipler/mentor, what was the most important thing he/she taught you about prayer? How has your prayer life changed over your lifetime?

1. Read Luke 11:1, the request

- The disciples were obviously observing Jesus’ prayer life and seeing something they weren’t doing! Their request, “Teach us to pray,” resulted in Jesus teaching them what we call today, “the Lord’s Prayer” (verses 2-4), and then a parable to encourage them.
- What do you imagine the disciples were observing in Jesus’ prayer life that caused them to see their need?
- What do you think you need most right now: instruction in the mechanics of prayer, or encouragement to pray? Explain your answer.

2. Read Luke 11:11-13, the encouragement

- After teaching the parable (Luke 11:5-10), in 11:11-13 Jesus gives His disciples encouragement. What is the essence of His encouragement?
- When Jesus says, “how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him” this is obviously a change from talking about practical everyday needs being met. Think about the Spirit’s resources and list the needs that can be met in our lives when we have the Holy Spirit?
- How are the resources of the Spirit accessed in everyday life?
- To what action do Jesus’ words—the Father always give His Spirit’s resources when asked—point! (Yes, this has an obvious answer!) Are you accessing the Spirit’s strength, etc. through your average day?

3. Read Luke 11:5-8, the parable

- **Information:** “To understand the parable, we must appreciate certain aspects of first-century cultural expectation. (1) Food was not as readily available as it is today; the era of twenty-four-hour convenience stores is new. Bread was baked each day to meet daily needs. (2) The culture held hospitality in high regard, almost as a duty. A visitor was to be welcomed and cared for, regardless of the hour of his arrival. Here, then, we have a dilemma; a late evening guest, but no food. What would the host do? Also, behind the story

stand the reality that most ancient homes had only one room. To approach a neighbor meant risking waking the family. (from The NIV Application Commentary)

- In verse 8, Jesus sums up how the one in need gets his friend to respond. What is the key to getting the friend to meet the need? If group members have different translations of the Bible, look at the different translations of what NIV calls “shameless audacity.”
- What is Jesus saying about audacity—bold persistence—in prayer? How is this practically displayed in our prayer lives?
- Sum up the teaching of this parable. What is Jesus’ saying about prayer? What prayer attitude is Jesus’ encouraging in the parable?
- Read 11:9-10. What limits do you think Jesus assumes in His statement? Is this a blank check for anything we desire?
 - Read the principle below:
 - If the request is wrong, God will say “No.”
 - If the timing is wrong, he’ll say “Not now.”
 - If you are wrong, He will say “When you’re ready.”
 - If the request is right and the timing is right and you are right, God will say, “Yes!”
 - Does this principle fit with 11:9-10?
- What encouragement or instruction have you been reminded of in this study?

Home Group Leader Notes.

Do not hand out these notes to your group members.

- Remember that you can ask all of the questions or none! You may add questions of your own. The purpose is for the group to come to grips with the major teaching of the passage and how to apply it to their lives.
- The Greek word translated “shameless audacity,” in the NIV can also mean, persistence.