

OUR FATHER

Luke 11:1-13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

² *He said to them, “When you pray, say:*

*““Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.*

³ *Give us each day our daily bread.*

⁴ *Forgive us our sins,*

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation.””

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 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 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!"

FATHER

Distance from God.

Impersonal.

God is an idea.

And so Jesus constantly uses the term "Father"

We do not have perfect parents.

Hard: conflict, approval, distant/absent
more pain than trust.

Make do.

Good: intimate, trusting, supporting, proud
friendship.

You cannot pray to someone you do not feel
safe with.

Do you feel safe with God?

FAITH

Without faith, we cannot see God.

We cannot pray.

Faith is not believing in God - his existence.

Faith is trusting that he loves us.

That he likes us.

That he hears us.

If you do not believe, you cannot pray.

But faith can also be born out of desperation.

The fundamental prayers are visceral.

HELP ME!

PRAISE YOU!

GAAAAAAHHH!

That is where we begin to pray.

A feeling, not a thought.

OUR FATHER

God does not belong to us alone.

God is OUR father.

He is about us - a community.

Not merely friends, but family.

Again, families are rarely healthy.

But we are called to be his people, family, kingdom.

This church is not a place to feel good at.

We are to teach you friendship & family.

Do you go the extra mile for anyone?

You sacrifice for your true friends.

You sacrifice to honour your family.

You sacrifice for your church - your people.

When's the last time someone went the extra mile for you? How about you?

A PRAYING PEOPLE

We are not meant to be alone in our prayers.

We are meant to pray together.

This means the following:

1. Listen

Create space for others by caring.

Be welcoming, loving, listening.

2. Speak

Tell the truth about yourself

How you feel, your downs and your ups.

From the heart.

3. Pray

Speak to God about others.

It actually makes you love better.

A praying person is a missional person.

Not just in the church but with those outside.

EXERCISE

1. Write down a personal need.

(Character or practical)

2. Find a Partner

3a. Spill your guts and share that need.

3b. Listen to the other person's need with real care and interest.

4. Pray your guts out for the other person.

Lay you hand upon them

or even hold their hand.

Use some sign of connection.

We'll share the experience.

REMEMBER.