

Luke: The Inside Out Gospel

Week 17

"Bugging God"

Luke 11:1-13

OPEN WITH PRAYER

GETTING STARTED: Were you taught any rote prayers as a child? What is one you can still recall today?

LEARNING & APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Together, read Luke 11:1-13

1. What was one thing that struck you from Steve's message on prayer?
2. Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of the New Testament translates verses 2-4 in this way:

*So he said, "When you pray, say,
Father,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil."*

What two concerns related to God come first in this model prayer?

What personal concerns then follow?

3. What does the parable in verses 5-8 teach us about prayer?

4. How do verses 9-10 relate to the parable?

5. In his message, Steve said that it really doesn't matter if our prayers are perfect, or especially articulate, or said just right. More than anything else, Jesus is teaching that prayer should be personal, relational and honest. Jesus is also telling us that we should be persistent in our prayers and they should be directed toward our loving Father who is eager to hear from us. How do these insights change your view about prayer?

LIVING OUT "REAL LIFE"

1. On a scale of 1-10 (1 being easy and 10 being difficult) do you find prayer an easy thing to do or a difficult thing to do? What about prayer is difficult for you? What blocks, or prevents you from praying more?

2. Share with the group some things you have learned about prayer that are helpful. For example, some people find that walking and praying is helpful.

3. In what ways would you like to see your prayer life grow?

SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)

Take some time to share prayer requests, where you need to find God's grace and peace. Be sure to give thanks for each other and pray for one another's needs. When we pray together, we find the power of God.