

**READ Luke 11:1-12**

1. When it comes to praying do you find it easy, challenging, very hard or somewhere in between?
2. In answer to the disciple's request "*Lord teach us to pray*" Jesus said, "*when you pray say*" and then He gave what we call 'the Lord's prayer' (v1-2). Do you think this means we should pray this prayer every time we pray?
3. How is referring to God as "Father" (v2 & v13) meant to shape the way we pray?
4. 'Hallowed' means to honour and treat as holy.
  - i. In what ways can we preserve this attitude towards God when we pray?
  - ii. In what ways might we pray where the Lord's name is not hallowed?
5. The reference to the Lord providing our "daily bread" is probably linked to the provision of manna in the wilderness where God provided the '*bread from heaven*' every day (see Exodus 16, John 6:31). Seeing as the food we eat and the clothes we wear today are acquired by us earning money or receiving income from other sources, in what ways can we say that the Lord provides our daily needs today?
6. According to verse 5 what is the relationship between us being forgiven and us forgiving others? (see also Matthew 6:12).
7. The phrase "lead us not into temptation" (v5) is an odd one seeing as James 1:13 says that God doesn't tempt anyone. How do you understand this phrase? (note the NIV footnote for Matthew 6:13 tells us that the Greek for "temptation" can also mean "testing").
8. Jesus tells a parable about the audacious request of a man (other translations use the word boldness or persistence) to receive bread from a neighbour late at night and then says "so I say to you ask...seek...knock (v5-10).
  - i. Do you think the words "ask, seek, knock" are just different ways of saying the same thing or is it a sequence that indicates that we have a part to play in seeing our prayers answered? (*note that each day the Israelites had to collect the manna that the Lord had provided – Exodus 16:16*)
  - ii. Have you recently received any answers to prayer? Did you need to do anything as part of the process of seeing it being answered?
9. Sometimes in tv games shows when faced with an opportunity to win big money contestants use the phrase "*go big or go home*". The word audacious is defined by others words such as "*extremely bold, daring, reckless, brave, fearless, unconventional, intrepid, adventurous*". In what ways might we be more audacious in our prayers as individuals and as a church?
10. What should we do if God doesn't answer our prayers?
11. Jesus finishes His teaching in verses 11-13 by assuring His listeners that their Heavenly Father is a greater giver of good gifts than earthly fathers and will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. The giving of the Holy Spirit hadn't been mentioned before this so why do you think He is mentioned by Jesus at the end?
12. In the light of this reading what one thing could you do to improve your prayer life?