

Prayer

KO: If you could ask Jesus to teach you how to do anything in the world, what would you ask him to teach you? Why would you ask him for this?

The disciples actually had this opportunity. One day one of the disciples asked Jesus to teach him something – it's the only recorded time in the Bible where someone asked Jesus to teach them something. What do you think he asked Jesus to teach them?

Read Luke 11:1 out loud

This disciple asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Q: Of all the things he could have asked Jesus to teach them, why do you think he picked prayer?

If you read straight through the book of Luke from chapter 1 until now, this would have been the 5th time that you would read about Jesus praying. Jesus was showing the disciples that God was a reliable and trustworthy source to go to when you need help. Wouldn't it be nice to have someone that doesn't just listen to your needs, but acts on your behalf?

Read Luke 11:2-4 to yourselves.

Q: What do you think the word pray means (v. 2)?

A: To pray literally means to ask God for something. When this disciple asks Jesus to teach them all how to pray he's saying, "Jesus, will you teach me how to ask God for things the same way that you do?"

Q: What are some things Jesus says to pray for (v. 2-4)?

Next, Jesus is going to share a story that shows how to pray in a way to ensure God will answer.

Read Luke 11:5-13 to yourselves.

Q: What happens in verses 5-6?

A: A guy goes to his buddy's house at midnight and asks for 3 loaves of bread

Q: How does his friend respond in verse 7?

A: No!!

Well, for some reason the man changes his mind and eventually gives his friend some bread.

Read verse 8 out loud

Q: What is the reason he changes his mind?

A: Not because he is his friend, but because of the man's boldness – his shameless persistence/shameless audacity to ask

Read verses 9-10 out loud

Q: How can we be sure that Jesus will respond to us in this same way?

A: Gives promises that if we ask it will be given, seek and we will find, knock and the door will be opened

Q: Obviously this doesn't apply to every request we can think of. What needs do you think it applies to?

A: It applies to the needs Jesus lists in verses 2-4

Read verses 11-13

Q: What do you think these verses are saying?

A: They're saying that God is better than one of our friends, he's a loving father who wants to meet our needs.

Q: Is there a time where you asked for something and God didn't answer it?

A: I'm not sure why God did not answer your prayer, but one reason could be you're asking for a fish when really you're asking for a snake. God uses difficult times in our lives to make us mature and complete (James 1).

Bottom line: this story teaches us that God wants to give, but you have to ask.

Here's one way we can learn to pray:

Adoration - Praising God for His character and who He is. (Ex: God you are infinite, holy, all powerful, etc.). Spend time recognizing and appreciating God for who He is and how you have seen Him display His character.

Confession - Simply acknowledging our wrongdoing to God. God already knows our shortcomings, but spending time agreeing with God that what we have done is wrong is vital to seeing progress in overcoming sin (1 John 1:9).

Thanksgiving - Sometimes thanksgiving can be confused with adoration. While adoration is praising God for who He is, thanksgiving is thanking God for what He has done.

Supplication - This comes from the root word "supply." In supplication, we ask God to supply needs that we or those around us have. Pray for yourself, friends, family and other needs in the world.