

FOLLOW-THROUGH

Small Group Discussion around the Sunday Message
Luke 11:1-13, Teach us to Pray, "Prayer in Fellowship"
March 11, 2007



Introduction

1. Read Luke 11:1-13. Pay particular attention to Luke 11:1-4.
2. Also read the other "Lord's Prayer" text from the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew's gospel (6:9-13).
3. What is different? What is the same? Matthew has a couple additional lines to his text. Why do you think this is so?

Getting Inside the Text

1. In confirmation class you may have learned the 7 petitions of the Lord's Prayer (along with the opening and closing). What do they mean for you today? Are they the same as when you learned them in junior high (or elementary) school?
 - a. Introduction: Our Father who art in heaven.
 - b. First Petition: Hallowed be Thy name
 - c. Second Petition: Thy Kingdom come
 - d. Third Petition: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 - e. Fourth Petition: Give us this day our daily bread.
 - f. Fifth Petition: and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us
 - g. Sixth Petition: and lead us not into temptation.
 - h. Seventh Petition: but deliver us from (the) evil (one).
 - i. Conclusion: for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen
2. The Lord's Prayer is a "model" prayer that Jesus teaches to us. Knowing what each petition means to us, we are better able to use this to help shape our own prayer. Do you find any benefit to praying using this model? Is it just more difficult? More structured? More cumbersome? More acceptable?
3. What would you call the style of prayer you most often use (conversational, scriptural, spiritual, pre-written)

Digging Deeper

1. Before we are able to develop a prayer for our family and friends; we first need to know what to pray for. This comes with:
 - a. Active Listening (Devoting our full intention on the prayer request and need)
 - b. Reflecting (restate the request in your own words)
 - c. Get Positive Affirmation (What you restated is what the request was)
 - d. Pray (using the prayer Jesus taught as model)
 - e. Amen (Be it so!!) God answers prayers (cf. Luke 11:9-13)
2. Take time to pray with one another. Use the Active listening, reflecting, positive affirmation and prayer technique.