



# FIRM FOUNDATIONS. FRESH FAITH.

## Sermon Study Guide

### Week 3: Prayer

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What does it really mean to pray? At its simplest, prayer is communication—talking and listening in relationship with the living God. Just as every healthy relationship depends on conversation, so too does a relationship with God. Without communication, connection fades. With it, relationship grows.

This week we reflect on prayer not just as a religious practice, but as a relational lifeline that flows from recognising our deep need for God and choosing to live in ongoing relationship with Him.

### Read Luke 11:1-13

We have been invited into relationship with the God of the universe. This relationship, like any other, is nurtured through communication. Prayer isn't about special words, formulas or performance. It's simply talking to God honestly, openly, and personally. God invites us to come as we are.

Yet while prayer is simple, maintaining a consistent prayer life is not easy. Like any meaningful relationship, it requires time, attention and intentionality. But most of all, prayer is about our desperate need for God.

1. How would you describe your current relationship with prayer?
2. What do you find most difficult about prayer? Why?



## Desperation

### Luke 11:5-8

Jesus tells a story about a man who receives an unexpected guest late at night. In that culture, hospitality was an honour-bound responsibility. Failing to provide food would bring shame. With nothing to offer, the man goes to a neighbour's house and bangs on the door for help. Persistently. Boldly. Shamelessly. Until he gets what he needs.

Desperation pushes people to seek help beyond themselves. This is why we pray. Because we are in desperate need. And yet, many people don't feel desperate. Comfort, convenience and distraction create the illusion of control. When life feels manageable, prayer feels optional. But human need hasn't disappeared, it's just been hidden beneath busyness and distraction. We need to recover our sense of need through revelation.

1. When do you find yourself most likely to pray – in crisis, in routine, or somewhere in between? Why?
2. In what ways does modern life make it harder to feel dependent on God?

## Revelation

### Proverbs 29:18

Revelation means an unveiling. To see reality clearly. When God reveals the truth about our lives, our hearts, or our world, we begin to recognise our limits. We see brokenness, pain, and need, both personal and global. We realise we are not in control.

This awakening often leads to desperation, not a despairing desperation, but a humble recognition of dependence. Revelation opens our eyes to the need around us, and moves us to pray. But desperation alone cannot sustain a life of prayer. We also need devotion.

1. When have you experienced a moment that made you deeply aware of your need for God?

## Devotion

### Luke 11:1-4



Desperation sparks prayer, but devotion sustains it. Just as people make New Year's resolutions after holiday indulgence, many people make spiritual commitments in moments of urgency. But without ongoing commitment, those decisions fade. Desperation without devotion leads to disappointment.

So, what does devotion look like? Regular, intentional practice. It means forming rhythms that nurture connection with God even when urgency fades. Jesus assumes His followers will live this way. In teaching His disciples to pray, He doesn't say *if* you pray, but *when* you pray. He provides a pattern, not merely words to repeat, but a framework for relational engagement with God.

And importantly, prayer is also corporate: "give **us** our daily bread," "forgive **us** our sins." Prayer is not only personal, it is communal. It draws individuals into shared dependence on God that leads to connection.

1. If you imagined a daily "prayer chair" moment, what would it look like for you?

## Connection

### Read Luke 11:11-13

The entire movement of prayer, from revelation to desperation to devotion, leads to one ultimate outcome: connection with God.

Jesus reveals God not as distant or reluctant, but as a loving Father. And we are invited to approach with trust and childlike openness. No loving parent substitutes harm for help. How much more, then, will God give good things to His children?

And what is the greatest gift of all? Not wealth. Not success. Not comfort. The Holy Spirit. God's own presence. The deepest answer to prayer is not simply provision, it is presence. God gives Himself.

1. If God's greatest gift is His presence, how might that reshape what you ask for in prayer?
2. What step of growth is God inviting you into right now — revelation, desperation, devotion, or connection?

## Prayer Response Activity

***How desperate are we for God?*** Because the greatest gift we can receive now and for eternity is life lived in connection with Him. Spend time praying as a group as



you consider this question personally and corporately. You may like to choose one of the following activities:

**Surrender Prayer**

Invite members to silently name areas where they feel in control or resistant to dependence on God. Pray together, surrendering those areas.

**Desperation for God's Presence**

Read Luke 11:13 again. Invite the group to simply ask for more of God's presence.

**Intercession for Community**

Pray for specific needs in your neighbourhood, church, and city. Ask God to bring renewal, healing and awakening.

**Closing Prayer**

Gracious Father, thank you that you invite us into relationship with you. Thank you for the gift of prayer. Open our eyes to recognise our dependence on you. Stir in us a deeper hunger for your presence. Help us grow in faithful devotion and shape our hearts to seek you first, trust you fully, and love others deeply. We ask for more of your presence, more of your grace, and more of your transforming power among us. In Jesus' name,  
Amen.