

## EQUIP Lesson Outline

8/23/20

### Introduction

**Share:** Share a time when someone was in need of something and you gave it to them. How did you feel afterwards? (Examples: Giving money to stranger, providing food for someone, buying THAT present your child has been asking for.)

**Say This:** We are often filled with joy when we give! And if we (sinners) desire to give good things, imagine how great our God (a righteous being) is at giving good things. Our Key Verse is *Luke 11:9* “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” The main idea is: *Tell God what you need.*

### Scripture

**Say This:** Let’s look at the context of Luke 11:5-13 before we read it. In Luke 11:1-4 we find Jesus praying with his disciples. After Jesus finished his prayer in verse 1, his disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray. Jesus gives what is known as “The Lord’s Prayer.” This is a prayer that teaches total dependence on God for even the most basic necessities of life. Whether it be in the circumstances that lead to His control of history, the provision of food, or spiritual protection, we must actively depend on God!

**Read:** Read Luke 11:1-4 for context.

**Question:** Ask your family members how they might approach God when they want to pray.

**Say This:** After Jesus teaches his disciples what a typical daily prayer should look like, he gives a parable on how his disciples are to approach God when they pray. The parable begins with a man leaving his house in the middle of the night in search of food. You see, this man had a late evening visitor come into his home, but he had no food to offer him (they must have been hungry!). There are two things we need to consider: (1) Bread was not readily available like it is today with 24 hour convenience stores. Only enough was made for that day. (2) The Jewish culture held hospitality in high regard. A visitor was to be welcomed and cared for no matter the hour. Which means we have a dilemma, a late evening guest, but no food. The man’s only option is to go to his friend’s house across the street and ask for some food. However, most Jewish homes only consisted of one room, so when you knock on the door of someone’s house, you risk waking up the whole house! How rude that would be! The man is in a tough spot, but he presses forward and knocks on his friend’s door. At first his friend rejects his request, but he eventually gets up to give him some food after he realizes this man’s audacity (to travel in the middle of the night risking his safety and to ask for food risking embarrassment and waking the house!).

**Read:** Pick someone to read Luke 11:5-13.

**Pray:** Lead your family in a short time of prayer.

### Truth

**Say This:** This parable shows us how we are to approach the throne of God in prayer. Even though we may feel hesitant, nervous, and worried that God won't give us what we ask for, Jesus calls us to approach God with boldness! We don't have to be embarrassed about asking for something on our heart and we don't need to be worried that we'll wake up His house. Jesus has given us His full access to go to His house, no matter the hour, and knock on His door with complete confidence that God will open it. Once God opens the door, we have His permission to ask for whatever is on our heart, and have assurance that He will give us what we need. If even a sinner will grudgingly fulfill his friend's request because of his audacity, how excited will God be to fulfill our request because of our audacity! Be bold, be confident, and *tell God what you need*.

**Question:** Do we tend to think of God as someone who gets annoyed easily and loves to reject our requests, or as someone who embraces us every time we come to him and loves to give us what we ask for? Our answer will determine how we approach the throne of God. Whether in fear and worry, or in boldness and trust.

**Say This:** After Jesus gives the parable, he gives a second illustration on how God gives in verses 10-13. Here Jesus compares the giving of an earthly father and the giving of our heavenly father. If even earthly parents desire to give their children good gifts, imagine how much greater God's desire is to give good gifts, even the greatest gift of all, the Holy Spirit! God will give us what He believes we need, particularly the spiritual blessings that we need. However, what we think we need is not always what God thinks we need. The more we are aligned in God's Will, the more we will ask of things that are in sync with God's Will. If we are not living God-honoring lives, we are not living according to His will and are likely asking for the wrong things. With all of this being said, the thing to remember is that God will give us what we need. Trust Him, He's a good Father.

**Question:** What are some prayer requests that sound in sync with God's Will and some that sound out of sync? (In sync: I need a friend. I need peace. I need healing. I need financial help. Out of sync: I need to win this game/competition. I need a lamborghini. I need help to pass this test I did not study for.)

## Reflection

**Say This:** The bottom line of this parable is that we can tell God what we need with boldness and confidence, and trust He will do whatever is good. Remember, God wants to give us good gifts! So don't be afraid to tell Him what's on your heart, and expect that God will give you what you need. If God doesn't give you an answer, keep asking. Keep knocking on His door and be audacious! God rewards our faithfulness.

**Question:** Ask your family members what their individual prayer life looks like. Is it lacking, decent, thriving? Encourage them to keep at it and to keep knocking on God's door.

**Challenge:** Challenge your family to find one time in the week where you can pray together. Although saying a blessing before a meal is good, try and pray together outside of this. Make sure to allow each family member an opportunity to tell God what they need. If you already do this with your family, add a second time in the week for it.

End

**Say This:** Remember, our Key Verse is *Luke 11:9* "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." and the main idea is: *Tell God what you need.*

**Pray:** End the lesson in prayer.