

September 20, 2026
Luke 11:1-13 | “Parables – Midnight Caller” | Pastor Brent Foster

Ice Breaker

- If your prayer life had a “Prayer Quotient” (PQ) right now, what would you give it out of 10? What makes you choose that number? No Sunday-school answers!

Warming Up

- Who is someone whose prayer life has impacted you? What is it about the way they pray or walk with God that you would like to have in your own life?

Digging In – Read Luke 11:1

- The disciples had watched Jesus teach, heal and perform miracles—but here they say, “Lord, teach us to pray.” What do you think they saw in Jesus' prayer life that made them want what He had? What can we learn from the times Jesus prayed throughout the Gospels?

- Pastor Brent described a small-group conversation where one person said, “God rarely does what I want.” Someone else responded, “Don't you think God could say the same thing about us?” Where do you feel that tension in your own prayer life? How can prayer move us from trying to change God's mind toward allowing God to change us?

- **Read Luke 11:2–4.** Before Jesus gets to “daily bread,” He begins with “Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.” Why do you think Jesus starts there? What would it look like practically to pray “Your kingdom come” over your life this week?

- **Read Luke 11:5–8**. Look at the Midnight Caller through our two parable lenses: **WINDOW:** What does this story show us about prayer and God? **MIRROR:** What does it reveal about the way you pray?

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- **Read Luke 11:8**. Jesus describes the man's asking as “shameless audacity.” Pastor Brent put it this way: *“To increase your PQ, sometimes you need to decrease your EQ!”* Kids can be great examples—they keep asking without worrying much about how they're coming across! What keeps adults from praying with that same kind of bold persistence?

- What is something you once prayed about persistently but eventually stopped asking for? Why did you stop—discouragement, disappointment, doubt, waiting too long, something else?

- Jesus prayed in Gethsemane for the cup to be taken from Him (Luke 22:39–44). Paul pleaded three times for his “thorn” to be removed (2 Corinthians 12:7–10). Neither received exactly what they requested. What do these examples teach us about the difference between persistent prayer and getting whatever we ask for?

- **Read Luke 11:11–13.** Jesus shifts the picture from a friendly neighbour to a faithful Father. What words or emotions come to mind when you hear God described as Father?

- Our experiences with our earthly fathers can shape how we imagine our heavenly Father—for better or worse. Where might we be tempted to project human experiences onto God? How does Jesus challenge those projections in verses 11–13?

- Jesus begins this teaching with “Father, hallowed be your name” and ends by talking about the Father's generosity. What do these verses reveal about what our heavenly Father is actually like?

- The person in the parable wants bread. But Jesus ends by talking about the Holy Spirit. Why do you think Jesus moves from something physical we need to God giving us Himself? In what sense is the Holy Spirit the Father's greatest gift?

- The sermon summarized Jesus' teaching this way:
  - Ask with persistence. Trust His perspective.
  - Which side is harder for you right now—continuing to ask or trusting God's perspective when His answer is different from yours? Why?

Living It Out

- Amy Carmichael persistently prayed for something as a child that God did not give her. Looking back, she could see that God's perspective was bigger than hers. Can you think of a time when you're now thankful God didn't answer a prayer the way you originally wanted?

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- Consider Judy Letain's statement: *"Sometimes you ask God for a miracle and God responds by inviting you to be part of one."* Is there something you've been asking God to do where He might actually be inviting you to take a step of obedience?

Prayer

- Finish by having everyone name one thing they want to persistently bring to the Father. Then spend time simply doing what Jesus says: ask, seek and knock. Pray for one another's requests, but also pray, "Father, Your kingdom come. Give us Your Holy Spirit. Help us trust Your perspective."

- You could close with **"Lord, I Need You"** as a response song.

