

Rockford Reformed Church
Sermon Series - "Time For Change" #5
Luke 11:5-13 - "Knocking on Heaven's Door"
2/3/19 – Pastor Tim Meendering

Questions for family/small group discussions:

1. What are the greatest barriers or struggles that keep you from a vibrant prayer relationship with God? When do you most find yourself looking to God with prayer? Why do you think that God repeatedly instructs/commands us to pray?

2. David Mathis, in [Habits of Grace](#) (page 95), refers to this quote by C.S. Lewis: "*Prayer in the sense of petition, asking for things, is a small part of it; confession and penitence are its threshold, adoration its sanctuary, the presence and vision and enjoyment of God its bread and wine.*" Does this describe your experience with prayer? Why or why not?

What is important to understand for our struggle to maintain a consistent practice of prayer:

1. **We come _____ to God as a _____ who delights in giving good _____ to his children.**

a. When you read through our text, what is one of the greatest barriers to our prayers?

b. Read James 1:17, James 4:10, John 1:12. What do these texts say about how we should relate to God with asking and prayer?

c. How does it make a difference for your prayer life when you see God as a loving Father who delights in hearing over and over from his children?

2. What do we ask for?

a. When you look at Luke 11:13, what does our Father want us to ask for?

b. What kinds of things do you need the Holy Spirit for? Do you pray for those things? Or do you often find yourself consumed with praying for the smaller things?

c. When you read in Luke 11:2 that you are to pray for his kingdom to come, what does that mean and what would that look like for you, your family, church and community?

d. Read Matthew 6:33. How does this change your prayers? How can you work toward kingdom-sized praying? What kinds of things will you pray for?

Additional resources to consider:

- [Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God](#), by Tim Keller.
- [A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World](#), by Paul Miller

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