

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #40

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 11:5-13

Sermon Date: June 25, 2006

Introduction:

Children have an uncanny ability to keep asking for things. Hasn't this been your experience? They seem to have an innate persistence that enables them to hear "No" or "Maybe later" a hundred times – and still ask yet again, with that same sweet smile. Each time they ask with a heart that seems to believe that this will really be the time they'll finally hear a "Yes." How do they do that?

Well, that's the kind of authentic persistence the Lord is encouraging us toward in our prayer lives. He has given us a model and a pattern for prayer in what we know well and call the "Lord's Prayer." Now he continues his teaching by sharing a pair of parables to help us understand how we are to persist in prayer and how we can expect God to respond.

Before you begin this study, persist right now in praying for God's guidance and for the other desires of your heart.

Have you ever sought God with your whole heart, or have you only given a languid cry to hear him after a twinge of moral neuralgia? See, concentrate, and you will find.

(Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest, June 10)

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart below to record your observations and questions.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>⁵Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,⁶ because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'</p> <p>⁷"Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.'⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness^a he will get up and give him as much as he needs.</p> <p>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. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.</p> <p>¹¹"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for^b a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"</p> <p>a Or <i>persistence</i></p> <p>b Some manuscripts: <i>for bread, will give him a stone; or if he asks for</i></p>	

Questions to Help You Look Closer:

2. What words and sets of words do you find repeated in this passage?

3. There is a form of logical argument called "arguing from the lesser to the greater" which was common among rabbis of Jesus' day. We see it in the scriptures, such as in Matthew 6:26, where the 'lesser' birds of the air are fed by our Father, and so we who are "much more valuable than they" (i.e. 'greater') can rest assured that our Father will of course meet our needs.

What are the two instances in Luke 11:5-13 where Jesus makes or implies comparisons that argue from the lesser to the greater?

4. Are there other passages in the Bible which you recall or can find which also address the concept of asking & receiving? List any you can come up with below. We'll address this again later in the study (but don't peek – practice your own cross-referencing skills here first).

5. Compare this passage to Matthew 7:7-14, which has some wording exactly the same, and yet is a quote from a different event in Jesus' life (the sermon on the mount). What similarities do you see between these passages? What differences do you see?

6. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

7. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Dig Deeper:

8. The ask-seek-knock pattern is repeated twice in this passage, implying that it is an important theme in this passage.

a. How are asking, seeking, and knocking different from one another? How are they similar?

b. Matthew Henry comments about this passage, "We must not only ask, but we must seek, in the use of means, must second our prayers with our endeavors." Do you think seeking that which we have prayed for serves to 'second' our prayer (as in a meeting where a motion is made by someone and then seconded by another)? Why or why not?

c. It is important to look at the full teaching of scripture on a given concept in order to fully understand who God is and how He wants us to live. Explore the following related verses to identify other aspects related to "ask and you shall receive." Note below any clarifications, insights, or caveats that you find.

Ps 50:14-15

Jer 33:3

Mark 11:23-24

John 15:7-8

John 16:22-27

Php 4:6-7

Heb 4:14-16

James 1:2-8

1 John 3:21-24

1 John 5:13-15

9. In the Luke 11:5-8 parable, the neighbor begrudgingly rises and provides for his friend only after his persistent (probably annoying, and certainly inconvenient) knocking.

a. How do you think God feels about our persistent prayers? Why does He want us to persist this way?

b. Are there some things that you have stopped praying for despite not receiving them yet? What are they, and why did you stop praying?

c. What prayer(s) do you feel strongly about right now and want to work to more persistently pray for going forward?

d. What are some practical steps you will take to remind yourself to pray for this? (e.g. reminder notes, people to ask to pray with you, verse to memorize, photograph that will remind you to pray for a person, etc.)

But, brethren, how many times we ask of God, and have not because we do not wait long enough at the door! We knock a time or two at the gate of mercy, and as no friendly messenger opens the door, we go our ways. Too many prayers are like boys' runaway knocks, given, and then the giver is away before the door can be opened. O for grace to stand foot to foot with the angel of God, and never, never, never relax our hold; feeling that the cause we plead is one in which we must be successful, for souls depend on it, the glory of God is connected with it, the state of our fellow men is in jeopardy.

(Spurgeon, The Parables of Our Lord)

Scripture Memory Challenge: Memorize Luke 11:9-10

“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. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”