

BATTLEGROUND: Call Reinforcements

LUKE 11:1-13

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■ Central Church

■ September 24, 2023

■ Social Media: #BattleGrounds

He Who Controls the Air Wins the War!

1. Pray **Pointedly** (1-4).
 - a. Pray pointedly to Love **God**.
 - b. Pray pointedly to Live **Surrendered**.
 - c. Pray pointedly to Love **People**.
2. Pray **PUSHINGLY** (5-10).
3. Pray **Positively** (11-13).

Luke 11:1-13 (ESV)

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."²And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³Give us each day our daily bread, ⁴and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."

⁵And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

These questions are for further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help your fight for life change. One of the best ways to grow in the body is by discussing the answers to these questions in a small group. Find one here: www.centralchurch.com/groups

1. This sermon first proposes that the way to learn how to pray is to pray pointedly. Most of our prayers need the form or structure we see Jesus provide. Which of these three-pointed categories challenged you most in Jesus' prayer prescription? Why?
2. Verses 5-10 teach us to P.U.S.H. Pray Until Something Happens. Here, we're told to not only shamelessly come to the Father with our requests, but we're also to "seek." In all our asking, there is a requirement of a faith that expects and goes looking for God's answers. This prevents lazy faith and praying. What does this active and persistent praying look like for you?
3. When you pray, stop modeling your prayers from religious hypocrites and start looking at a father's relationship with his child. This helps us to pray expectantly or positively. How does this passage encourage us to pray with expectation?

Quote for the Week. . .

by Don Carson

"What is both surprising and depressing is the sheer prayerlessness that characterizes so much of the Western church. It is surprising, because it is out of step with the Bible that portrays what Christian living should be; it is depressing, because it frequently coexists with abounding Christian activity that somehow seems hollow, frivolous and superficial."

D.A. Carson, *A Call to Spiritual Reformation*, Baker, 1992, p. 9.

