

**Shameless Audacity**  
Luke 11:5-13  
Small Group Discussion Guide

**Opening Question** (get everyone involved in discussion):

- How did all of you do during the storm? Bad enough to evoke some prayers? 😊

**Transition:** We're spending six weeks in a series called, "Teach us to pray," and we're exploring what Jesus has to say about prayer. Today we're looking at one moment when the apostles, Jesus' inner circle, asked him to teach them how to pray, and in his answer, you're going to see something about how to approach God in prayer that I think can be revolutionary for you.

- Is there a word that would describe the way you approach God? How do you feel about speaking with God in prayer?

**Read** Luke 11:1-13 and then discuss the following.

- When you first hear Jesus' story/teaching on prayer, what is your initial response? Encouraged, surprised, skeptical, etc.? Explain.
- In Jesus' story of the host asking his friend and neighbor for bread, what did Josh say you needed to understand culturally to get the meaning of this vignette?
  - How do you react when you realize that God wants you to ask for requests audaciously? Does that feel uncomfortable or not?
  - According to this passage, why should we feel comfortable boldly asking God for our requests?
  - This might be a tough question for some (share as you're comfortable): How free were you to make bold requests of your own earthly father? Is there any similarity to how you ask of God now?
  - How might God being the perfect father affect how he responds to your prayers? What would cause him to say "yes"? "No"? "Wait"? or "Maybe"?
- The passage concludes differently than we expect by saying that the Father will give the Holy Spirit (instead of "good gifts"). What do you learn about the role of the Holy Spirit by reviewing the following selections (Josh found 3 ways that the HS is the best possible gift for your relationship with God.)?
  - Rom. 8:15. The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "*Abba, Father.*"
  - Gal. 4:6. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "*Abba, Father.*"

- Rom. 8:26. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.
- John 14:14. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
- How are your prayers affected knowing that the Holy Spirit interprets your prayers to God as if God were hearing Jesus' own voice?
- Josh said that the Holy Spirit groans for us in prayer as a mother does when giving childbirth. What's your reaction to this image?
- Author, Bryan Chapell coined the term "praying backwards." In doing this, begin our prayers with the phrase "in Jesus' name." How would doing so affect your prayers? Can you give some examples?
- Despite asking for "this cup to pass," Jesus accepted God's will in the Garden of Gethsemane for his eventual suffering and death in our place. How does Jesus' act, help us in our prayers to God the Father?

**Prayer:**

- Pray that we can pray without fear of being rated, but with the eagerness because we have complete access to our heavenly Father the way children do with their father.
- What other needs exist in your group? Spend some time praying for them.