

TEACH US TO PRAY

As preached on Sunday, August 23rd

Read: Luke 11:1-13

1. As this passage begins, we find Jesus at prayer. When he finishes his time of prayer, one of his disciples asks him to teach them to pray as well. Which aspect of Jesus' practice of prayer do you think prompted this disciple's request?
2. When did you first learn to pray? Take some time to think back on the experience and write out some details in the space below.
3. Who was it that taught you to pray? What prompted their teaching? What "qualified" this person(s) to teach you to pray?
4. In what specific ways have you relied upon prayer in your relationship with God?
5. Do you have a specific practice or discipline of prayer in your life today? Take a few moments to reflect on the role of prayer in your relationship with God.
6. Take a moment to consider the following "difficult questions" regarding prayer. We'll be touching on many of these during the next eight weeks. Which have you wrestled with? Are there some that pose no difficulty for you at all? Explain.
 - ☐ *What about "unanswered" prayers?*
 - ☐ *Does the number of people who are praying make a prayer more likely to be answered?*
 - ☐ *Does praying the same prayer over and over make it more likely to be answered?*
 - ☐ *How do we know what to pray for? Are there "acceptable" or "unacceptable" requests?*
 - ☐ *What about God's foreknowledge? Does prayer really change outcomes? God's mind?*
 - ☐ *Does prayer actually "work"?*
7. How interested does Jesus seem in teaching the disciples to pray? Do you think he's as interested in teaching you to pray today? Why, or why not?