

14. What other things can discourage us from praying?

15. To end on a positive point, how was the blind man's persistence in crying out to Jesus rewarded?

Pray

Pray that, as individuals and a church, we be persistent in prayer and keep praying despite discouragements.

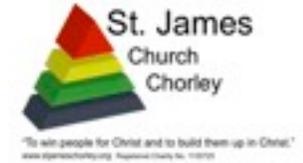
Over this month we are asked to pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

Pray for the youngsters who are wanting to be confirmed in January and so acknowledge their faith before others.

*David Phillips
November 2017*

Teach us to Pray

Prayer in Luke's Gospel Week 2



When you pray

Read Luke 11.1-4

On at least two separate occasions Jesus taught his disciples something like what we have come to be known as "The Lord's Prayer". The words we most often use, in older or modern English, come from Matthew 6.

1. From **Matthew 6.9** how do we see that Jesus was there giving an example or structure for prayer? Some have therefore suggested that it is wrong to simply say the prayer as we do - how would you respond?
2. We do say the Lord's Prayer together at most of our service. What do you think are the advantages and/or disadvantages of this?
3. Our prayers begin by addressing God in many different ways. Do you think you have any particular favourites? What does it mean to you to begin "Father" or "Our Father"?

4. In Luke 11.2 what things does Jesus tell us to pray for, what does each mean? How is this reflected in your own prayers?

5. In the rest of the prayer what things does Jesus say we should pray for ourselves? Are these things you pray for in private prayer and in what ways?

A friend at midnight

Read Luke 11.5-13

6. Given that Jesus is encouraging people to pray how might His parable seem a bit shocking? What is the point of the shock value?

7. Why do you think persistence in prayer is important? Why doesn't God just answer straight away?

8. How should we deal with situations where we pray and persevere but do not seem to get an answer?

9. In **2 Cor 12.7-9** Paul writes about praying for something three times and then he apparently stopped. Why did he stop? What situations might you feel it was right to give up persisting in praying for something?

Crying out to Jesus

Read Luke 18.35-43

10. Notice what Jesus says about the man's faith and why he was healed in verse 42. What does what the man said **about** Jesus in verse 38 show about his faith, ie. what he believed?

11. What does the fact that the blind man cried out **to** Jesus for mercy show about his faith?

12. What barriers and discouragements did the man face as he cried out to Jesus for mercy and how did he respond to them?

13. What discouragements to prayer can we face from family, friends or work colleagues ?