

## C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

S2022-WEEK 1

1/30/22

### Getting Started with a Warm-Up:

- Briefly explain to the group a situation when you requested something from a superior (e.g. boss, supervisor, parent) and explain how you approached them?
- What about the activity of prayer is most difficult for you?

### Getting Down to Business:

The following questions are following this format: Scripture/Observation, Application, and Prayer (SOAP).

**1) Scripture/Observation:** Read Luke 11:1-4 (see commentary below).

A. What questions do you have regarding this passage of scripture? Why? B. Jesus gave us the example to pray for our daily needs. Does that mean that we can't pray for our wants (see John 14:12-14 and James 4:2-4, also commentary below)? C. Why is the request for God's forgiveness linked to our forgiveness of others (see Matthew 18:23-35 the Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor, also see commentary below)?

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Luke 11

V 1-4: PATTERN FOR PRAYER When asked to teach His disciples to pray, in view of the fact that John had so taught his disciples, Jesus teaches the famous 'Lord's Prayer' as a pattern. God's holiness, kingdom, and willingness to meet our daily needs are balanced with our need to receive forgiveness, to forgive others, and not to be led into temptation. (The Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 1/27/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=lk+11&version=NLT>)

John 14:12-14

We must pray in faith (v. 12). This is a promise for us to claim, and the claiming of it demands faith. The double "verily" assures us that this is a solemn announcement. The fact that Jesus did return to the Father is an encouragement, for there He is interceding for us. He will have more to say about this intercessory work later in His discourse.

The "greater works [things]" would apply initially to the apostles, who were given the power to perform special miracles as the credentials of their office (Rom. 15:18-19; Heb. 2:3-4). These miracles were not greater in quality, for "the servant is not greater than his lord" (John 13:16), but rather in scope and quantity. Peter preached one sermon and

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three thousand sinners were converted in one day! The fact that ordinary people performed these signs made them even more wonderful and brought great glory to God (Acts 5:13-16).

Of course, it is not the believer himself who does these “greater things”; it is God working in and through the believer: “The Lord working with them” (Mark 16:20). “For it is God which worketh in you” (Phil. 2:13). Faith and works must always go together, for it is faith that releases the power of God in our lives.

Both love and obedience are part of effective prayer. “If I regard [see and approve] iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Ps. 66:18).

We do not obey the Lord simply because we want our prayers answered, somewhat like the attitude of a child just before Christmas. We obey Him because we love Him, and the more we obey Him, the more we experience His love. To “keep” His commandments means to value them, treasure them, guard them, and do them. “I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23:12).

Believing prayer is wonderful medicine to soothe a troubled heart. Meditate on Philippians 4:6-7—and then put it into practice!

We must pray in Christ’s name (vv. 13-14). This is not a “magic formula” that we automatically attach to our prayer requests, guaranteeing that God will answer. To ask anything of the Father, in the name of Jesus, means that we ask what Jesus would ask, what would please Him, and what would bring Him glory by furthering His work. When a friend says to you, “You may use my name!” he is handing you a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility.

The “whatsoever” in John 14:13 is qualified by all that God has revealed in His Word about prayer; likewise, the “anything” in John 14:14. God is not giving us carte blanche; “in My name” is the controlling element. To know God’s name means to know His nature, what He is, and what He wants to do. God answers prayer in order to honor His name; therefore, prayer must be in His will (1 John 5:14-15). The first request in “the Lord’s Prayer” is, “Hallowed be thy name” (Matt. 6:9). Any request that does not glorify God’s name should not be asked in His name.

(Warren Wiersbe BE Bible Study Series commentary, accessed 1/27/22,  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014&version=NLT>)

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James 4:2-4

V 1–3: WARS All wars and fighting come from wilful and wayward human hearts. How different is submission to God which seeks for what pleases Him, rather than what pleases us. V 4–5: WORLDLINESS Those who are friends of the world and its standards, pastimes and entertainments show that they are enemies of God. This is equivalent to spiritual adultery, and God yearns jealously for His people, as a husband would for an unfaithful wife. (The Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 1/27/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%204&version=NLT>)

Matthew 18:23-35

V 21–35: COUNTING Just as God has forgiven us all our many sins, we should forgive others who sin against us. Their sins against us are minute compared with the immensity and amount of sin that we have committed against God and others. Forgiven people forgive others. (The Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 1/27/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mt+18&version=NLT>)

**2) Application:** A. Which part of Jesus' model prayer is most needed in your prayers?

Hint:

- *with confidence in our relationship* - "Father"
- *with respect* - "may your name be kept holy"
- *with desire for His rule* - "may your kingdom come soon"
- *requesting His provision* - "give us each day the food we need"
- *confessing our sin* - "forgive us our sins"
- *seeking His guidance* - "don't let us yield to temptation"

B. Do you think that the form of Jesus' prayer should be the guide for all prayers? Why or why not?

**3) Prayer:** Guide your group in prayer asking that during this series we would learn more about prayer and find renewed excitement to pray.