

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Luke 11:1-13

Sunday, January 4, 2015

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. If you were disciple of Jesus, why would you want to learn how to pray from Him?

As a disciple of Jesus, I would see how His prayers help a lot of people, and I would want to be able to help others in ways that He does. I would also see how His Father answers His prayers and meets His needs, and I would want God to answer my prayers and meet my needs too, because I have seen how He prays every day and how His Father is faithful to Him every day.

2. Read again how Jesus taught His disciples to begin their prayers in Luke 11:2. How might your prayers be different if you began all of your prayers with this or a similar request?

“Heavenly Father, I thank You for all of the blessings You have bestowed upon us as Your children. I thank You especially for the gift of Jesus Christ, the One I seek to follow daily as my Lord and Savior. Heavenly Father, help me to honor and glorify You with my life in all I say and do. May Your name be holy and hallowed by all people throughout the earth. May Your kingdom come on earth with all of its glory and power as it is in heaven. Help me to live each day with the conscious acknowledgment that You are my King and I live in Your Kingdom.”

Perhaps ask each one in your class to write their own prayer and share it with the class, if they feel comfortable doing so in front of the class. Otherwise, they might write and pray their prayer silently from their hearts.

3. What might you say to someone who said to you, “I just cannot forgive them because. . . .”?

You might suggest that God wants us to forgive everyone in prayer to Him as an act of our obedient will even when we do not feel like it. We can also pray that God will change

an enemy or someone who has sinned or sins against us, lead them to true saving faith in Jesus Christ, lead them to repent of their sins, prevent them from harming us again or others, and do what is best and right to keep them from doing it again or doing to others what they have done to us or others. We can pray that God will change our hearts and attitudes and help us be more forgiving, as Jesus has forgiven us for our sins by dying on the cross for us. In some cases, we may need to pray for the government to do what is necessary to prevent future crimes and encourage others not to follow bad examples.

4. What difference does it make to you when you remember that as a follower of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior that God is your Father and Friend?

When I remember this fact, I am encouraged when I pray, and I know that God will always do what is best for me and others because He is my Father and Friend.

5. From Luke 11:1-13, what truths do you think are the most important to you personally?

I can pray to God as my Father and Friend. Jesus is my Friend. God will give me what I really need. What I really need the most is the Holy Spirit, and the Father will fill me with the Holy Spirit when I ask according to His will. God always knows what I really need even before I pray, and He is ready to meet my real needs as a foreseeing Father.

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