

I have included a sermon brief to help you either follow along or reflect on the message, some links to helpful resources for further study, and then discussion questions. I hope it helps!

Sermon Brief

Luke 11:2

God-centered prayers

1. We want to be a church that helps others follow Jesus.
2. If we are going to help others follow Jesus we need to be following Jesus and so we are going back to Jesus and looking at the instructions He gave regarding what it means to follow Him.
3. What are His priorities for us? We see in Luke 11 that one of his first priorities is prayer. We are designed to be a praying community.
4. What we are on our knees before God in prayer reveals who we are as a church. Prayer reveals what we really believe. It's important we pray. It's a means God uses to accomplish His work in this world. It's a privilege. We need to pray. And we are looking at Luke 11 on Sundays to learn from Jesus how. You might say He gives us several rules from prayer.
5. Last week, we saw the first. **Believe**. You need to begin prayer by making sure you are believing the Gospel, because that's the only way you can sincerely and truly call God Father.
6. This week we are looking at the second. **Remember**. One of the essential requirements of prayer is knowing who you are talking to when you pray. It's kind of crazy when you are praying how easy it is to forget who you are speaking to. You are speaking to God.
7. We want gospel driven prayers. We want God-centered prayers. And I am drawing this 'rule' from Jesus' words here in Luke 11:2 where He says, 'When you pray, say Father, 'Hallowed be your name.'
8. Which may not mean that much to us at first because no one really uses the word hallowed anymore. What does it mean? This is a request for God make it clear to everyone everywhere that He's God, the holy God. And this request reflects an attitude. That's important. The request doesn't mean much if you just say it. Jesus is telling us that what's supposed to be driving us as we pray is really God Himself, an awe of God, where we come to prayer because we know God and we love God and we long for God's name to be revered and set apart from everything else.
9. If we are going to learn to pray the way Jesus wants us to we need to make a priority out of getting the awe back into our prayers. But, maybe you are thinking how?
10. **Let me give you four places to start.** *Look up*. The people most sincerely passionate about God are the people thinking the most true thoughts about God. *Look in*. Evaluate whether or not you actually are hallowing God's name. *Look back*. If you are going to kindle a passion for God's glory, think back on how He's acted to save in the past. And finally, *look forward*. This prayer request ultimately is us crying out to God to keep His promises and one thing He's promised very clearly in Scripture is that there is a day coming, when He will hallow His name.

Helpful Links:

1. [The Most Important and Neglected Prayer](#)
2. [Awe](#): Paul Tripp
3. [Meditation](#): Joel Beeke

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is prayer so important to followers of Jesus?
2. Even though most of us know the importance of prayer, we often miss the significance of corporate prayer. What would be some biblical hints or clear reasons it is important for us to be praying together? (Even just think what hint there might be in the Lord's Prayer itself?)
3. If our attitude toward prayer reflects what we really believe, what do you think the typical American Christian's attitude toward prayer says about what they believe?
4. Prayer is not only a reflection of what you believe, it is an opportunity to remember what you believe. This is one of the reasons prayer is so important. In prayer, we are able to rehearse the gospel as we intentionally and deliberately exercise our faith in the gospel. What are some ways we have already seen we can do that through the Lord's Prayer?
5. Now some people are intimidated to pray with others. What are some reasons for that, and how might you encourage them?
6. While prayer is not something that is supposed to be incredibly difficult, it is something we need to learn how to do. What two "rules" have we said we can apply from the Lord's Prayer to our prayer life?
7. We got the second "rule" from the part of the prayer where we say, "Hallowed be Thy Name." What does that mean? What are we saying that we want when we pray that? Why is it significant that this is the first prayer request in this prayer?
8. Unfortunately, this isn't often what is driving our prayers. Paul Tripp writes, "I know for myself - and I know I'm not alone - **that so much of my prayer has nothing to do with the glory of God.**" What do you think about that statement? If it doesn't have to do with the glory of God, what do most of our prayers have to do with?
9. What specific practical steps can we take to be more driven by a passion for the glory of God in our prayers?