

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 11:3

How to Ask

1. We've been talking about prayer for a long time and today we are going to finally talk about asking God for stuff.
2. We are going to look at Luke 11:3 and one, I want to talk about why it is important you do ask God for help and two, I want to give you some guidance on how you should ask God and what specifically you should be asking God for.
3. You remember I've given you a couple words to help you pray according to Jesus' pattern, and there was first, believe, and then second remember, and third, hope, and today, fourth, the word is ASK.
4. Asking God for help is a command. Jesus teaches us here to make personal requests of God. Not asking God for help is sin.
5. We need to verbally express our dependence on God for our daily needs because it's a way of glorifying God. It's a way we express humility. It's a confession of faith. And it's an act of rebellion against the world's system
6. While it is obvious we should be asking God for help, it's often difficult for us to do so, which may be why the Bible gives us so many encouragements to ask God for help. One way the Bible encourages us to pray is through promises. Another way is by pointing us to God's character. God wants your best more than you do. When you ask God for help you are asking someone who is more interested in your long term good than even you are.
7. So you've got all sorts of reasons to ask God for help. You need to ask. You can't ask too much or too often. The problem is not asking, the problem is that it is possible to ask in the wrong way. And this is where I want to give you some guidance how. How do you ask God for help?
8. It's possible to ask wrongly. You see this in James 4:3. You have to evaluate your prayer life and ask are you talking to God like an unbeliever?
9. What we believe should impact us all the way down to what we ask of God when we are on our knees in prayer and what we ask of God when we are on our knees in prayer should flow out of what we say we believe about God and the gospel.
10. I wonder, have you ever thought about this. What does a person who believes the gospel want and what does he feel like he needs as he goes to God?
11. You have to think about that, because it doesn't come naturally. What would it look like to make requests of God like someone who believes in the gospel? That's where this passage can help us.

12. It doesn't mean you stop asking God about physical needs. But it does change what you really think are your needs.
13. Jesus says to ask God for your daily bread. What's that? "Everything necessary for the preservation of this life is bread, including food, a healthy body, good weather, house, home, wife, children, good government, peace and what's necessary for the advancement of God's agenda."
14. So what should you be asking God for? You should be asking God to provide everything you need to serve Him and do what He's called you to do today.
15. Which is challenging if we look at what we are complaining to God or feeling discontent or feeling inadequate about. It's rarely our daily bread. As you look at what you are urgently asking God for, it's important to evaluate whether you are really asking God for what you need or demanding luxuries, not because you are never allowed to ask for things that seem like luxuries, but because when you receive them, you need to know what they are, they are luxuries and because when you don't receive them, you need to be careful that you don't start acting like God hasn't been good, or that He hasn't given you what you need to serve Him.
16. In Africa, I had to encourage the church if God's given them their daily bread, He's given them what they need to serve Him. Here in America, I think, we may need to be challenged as believers, not to allow having more than our daily bread to stop us from putting our ultimate reliance on a daily basis in God.
17. How can we learn to rely on God in prayer? Make it your goal in your normal everyday times of prayer to actively remember how much you need God by asking for help in specifics. Look at what you do have and deliberately see God's hand behind it all. See riches as a blessing from his hand, but also pray that He would protect you from the danger of having too much. Embrace the challenges God brings into your life as an opportunity to depend on Him. Develop relationships with suffering people and depend on God for their needs. Think about what would be different if you were depending on God for your daily bread, and then seek to live that way.

#### Helpful Links:

1. [The Danger of Autonomy](#)
2. [Prayer: Rebelling Against the Status Quo](#)
3. [What does Give us Our Daily Bread Mean?](#)

#### Sermon Discussion:

1. Why is petitionary prayer important?
2. What makes petitionary prayer difficult?
3. Why is an attitude of self-sufficiency delusional and dangerous?
4. What encouragement does the Bible give us to present our requests to God?

5. How would you help someone who feels like God doesn't care about their daily needs?
6. How would you challenge someone who doesn't feel like it's important to ask God for help about their specific needs?
7. What is the significance of the fact that Jesus tells us to ask God for our daily bread? What does that teach us about what Jesus thinks about our needs and in what way is that challenging?
8. What are some of the specific challenges we face as people who have more than our daily bread?
9. How do you learn to pray this prayer when you have more than your daily bread?
10. What would it look like for you and for us as a church to live every day like beggars or children who are absolutely sensing and expressing our dependence on God?