



Welcome to FAST FORWARD. If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some simple instructions, as well as the continuation of the questions, on page 2, and this week's Group Practice Suggestion on page 3.

February 28, 2021

FAST FORWARD WEEK 2

Luke 11:5-13

## WEEK 2

### Questions to use with your group:

- ▶ What has God been teaching you this week, whether through your prayer and fasting, or in other ways? (*We suggest opening your discussion time with this same question each week of Lent, as a way to encourage deeper sharing and growth.*)
- ▶ Our text for this week is Luke 11:5-13.
  - ▶ To get a sense of the context for this passage, read Luke 11:1. According to v. 1, what is the occasion for Jesus's teaching in vv. 2-13?
  - ▶ Next, have someone read vv. 2-4 aloud. What specific things does Jesus instruct his followers to pray for in the Lord's Prayer? And skipping ahead to the end of the passage, what does Jesus imply that we should be praying for in v. 13?
  - ▶ If you had to give a title to Jesus's parable in vv. 5-8, what would it be? What seems to be the essential lesson of the parable?
- ▶ What promise does the Lord give us in vv. 9-10?
  - ▶ Given the context, what kinds of things might Jesus have been encouraging us to ask, seek, and knock for? By contrast, what kinds of things do we typically ask, seek, and knock for?

## How to Use These Study Guides:

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- If your group is new this Lent, take some time during each meeting to get to know one another.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another, and be sure to set aside time for prayer.
- Don't feel like you need to discuss every question. Pick two or three that you think will be fruitful for your group, and invite people to reflect on those.
- Use the weekly Group Practice Suggestions (found on page 3) if they are helpful for your group.
- You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
- Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.

## Questions, cont.

- ▶ In the message, Pastor Jon encouraged us to pray with ***shameless audacity***.
  - ▶ Can you think of a time when you prayed with shameless audacity? Or, as Jon put it, “When have you ever prayed with no regard for what is ‘proper’ in prayer?” What were the circumstances?
  - ▶ Why do you think God would want us to pray that way?
- ▶ Jon quoted the philosopher Soren Kierkegaard: “The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.”
  - ▶ When have you experienced prayer changing something in you?
- ▶ What are the “noises” or distractions that typically get in the way of your prayer?
  - ▶ Why do you think it is so tempting for us to fill our lives with noise? What is the cost?
  - ▶ What concretely will you do this week to create some space and silence for God to speak into your life?

# This Week's Group Practice Suggestion

- ▶ This Week's Group Practice Suggestion: **Silence**
- ▶ From the message: "The consequence of allowing an abundance of outside noise to constantly enter into our lives is that we end up drowning out the voice of God."
  - ▶ Silence can be uncomfortable. Silence over Zoom can be *especially* uncomfortable. But as we as a church try this week to fast from unnecessary noise and pray with shameless audacity, let's lean into that together now for a few moments.
  - ▶ Let's take three minutes of silence right now, and let's each pray silently but specifically for each person in this group, going through them one by one in our minds and hearts, lifting each one up to the Lord and praying that they will hear God's voice this week.
    - ▶ [Silent prayer]
  - ▶ We can all just take a moment now to jot down, on a post-it or in the notes app on your phone, the name of each person in the group. And let's commit to praying for one another for the next week, that each of us will hear God's voice as we pray with shameless audacity.