

# AstepFURTHER

DIVING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S SERMON

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*A resource of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale for individuals, families, and small groups that offers deeper insights into the previous Sunday's scripture text and sermon.*

## From the Sermon on 7/27/25 "Teach Us to Pray"

**Scripture:** Luke 11:1-13

**Opening Prayer:** "Gracious and loving God, as we gather to study your Word, we ask for your spirit to guide us. Open our hearts and minds to understand the teachings of Jesus on prayer. Help us to grow in our relationship with you and to trust in your goodness. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

**Understanding the Context:** (Explore aspects of the passage like place, adjacent scripture, and other elements)

1. What prompted the disciples to ask Jesus to teach them to pray? Consider the cultural and religious context of prayer during Jesus' time.
2. How does Jesus' response to the disciples' request reflect His understanding of their needs and concerns?

**Key Themes:** (Teach Us to Pray)

3. What does the use of the word "Father" in the Lord's Prayer signify about our relationship with God?
4. How do the parables of the persistent friend and the good parent illustrate the nature of God as described by Jesus?

**Application and Action:**

5. In what ways can we incorporate the structure of the Lord's Prayer into our daily prayer life?
6. How can understanding God as a loving Father change the way we approach Him in prayer?

**Group Discussion:**

If you are studying with others, discuss your reflections and insights.

1. Share a time when you felt God answered your prayer. How did that experience shape your understanding of prayer?
2. Discuss the concept of "functional atheism" as mentioned in the sermon. How can we move from relying solely on our own efforts to trusting in God's provision?

**Closing Prayer:** “Lord, we thank you for the gift of prayer and the assurance that you are always listening. Help us to approach you with confidence, knowing that you care deeply for us. May our lives reflect a deep trust in your goodness and love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.”

**Journal Prompt:**

Reflect on the following: "What does my prayer life say about who I believe God to be?" Write about any changes you feel called to make in your approach to prayer.

