GENESIS TO REVELATION | PARABLE

A Friend Knocks at Midnight

Luke 11:5-13



YOUR BIBLE READING

Jesus encouraged persistent prayer and trust in the Father's good care.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

A Request in the Middle of the Night

Luke 11:5-13



Jesus taught his followers about prayer with a story-shaped question. Suppose a friend arrived at your home after a journey and you had nothing to offer him to eat. You went to another friend's house at midnight and asked to borrow three loaves of bread. The need was food for a guest, and the request was help in showing hospitality when you did not have what was needed.

The friend inside answered that the door was already shut and his children were in bed with him. Getting up would disturb the household. He told the person outside not to trouble him and said he could not get up to provide the bread. Jesus let his listeners hear an unwilling answer. The request had met a barrier, even though the people involved knew each other as friends.

Then Jesus explained that the request would not be left unanswered. Even if friendship by itself did not move the man to rise, the bold persistence of the person asking would lead him to get up and give as much as was needed. The story does not require us to invent a number of knocks or a long argument. Its contrast is between the closed door and the bread eventually provided.

This picture gave Jesus a starting point for teaching his followers to ask, seek, and knock. It did not mean that God was simply the sleepy, unwilling friend in the house. Jesus would move from the smaller example to a much greater confidence in the Father's goodness. His followers could bring real needs in prayer rather than assume that asking was pointless or that a difficult beginning meant they must give up.

Remember: I can bring needs to God with trust and honesty.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

The Goodness of the Father

Luke 11:5-13



Jesus encouraged his listeners to continue asking, seeking, and knocking. The words describe active trust: a need can be brought forward, a search can continue, and a closed door need not stop an honest request. He then offered another picture, this time from family life. A child asks a parent for food. The parent's response helps explain the kind of goodness Jesus wants his followers to expect from God.

If a child asks for a fish, a caring parent does not offer a snake instead. If the child asks for an egg, the parent does not substitute a scorpion. Jesus used these vivid differences to show the gap between a needed gift and something harmful. Even imperfect people can understand giving food instead of danger. Human weakness does not erase every ability to care well for a child.

How much more, Jesus said, would the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. The teaching ends with this particular gift, not with a list of toys, prizes, or plans a person could demand. The Father is good, and his gift is greater than the bread at midnight. Prayer rests on that goodness rather than on a trick that forces God to obey the person praying.

The story and the family comparison belong together. We are invited to ask honestly and to trust the one we ask. This does not turn every wish into a promise of an immediate result exactly as imagined. A child can pray, seek an adult's help, keep learning, and wait through an answer that is not yet clear. Continuing in trust is different from believing that enough repeated words must control the outcome.

Pause and think: What need could you bring honestly to God while also asking a trusted person for suitable help?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Bring the Need Honestly



The visitor needed bread for another person. Prayer can include needs beyond our own, such as a friend who is lonely or a family who needs food. Naming the need helps us think clearly. You can talk with God in simple words, then ask a trusted adult whether there is a practical and safe way for you to help.

Asking for help is not a failure of independence. If homework is confusing or a situation feels unsafe, continuing to ask a responsible adult can be wise. Sometimes you need a clearer explanation or a different person who can help. The story encourages bringing a real need into the open, not hiding it because the first response was difficult or incomplete.

Jesus' final picture is of a Father whose gifts are good. When an answer takes time or differs from what you hoped, you can speak honestly about disappointment. You do not have to blame yourself for using the wrong words. Prayer is a relationship of trust, and trusted people can support you while you wait, think, and take the next step.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Jesus encourages persistent prayer grounded in the heavenly Father's goodness.

What need could you bring honestly to God while also asking a trusted person for suitable help?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Why did the person need bread at midnight?

2. What gift did Jesus say the Father would give to those who ask?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Jesus described the request being answered and taught trust in God.
- ☐ The host asked a friend for bread at midnight.
- ☐ A traveler arrived, and the host had no food.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw a closed door and three loaves of bread beside a moon.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

I can bring needs to God with trust and honesty.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Luke 11:9-13

A thoughtful conversation

Persistence is not a formula that forces God to grant every request, and unanswered prayer is not a child's fault. Jesus contrasts human reluctance with the Father's goodness; he is not calling God a grumpy neighbor.

Activity answers

1. A traveling friend had arrived, and there was no food to offer.
2. The Holy Spirit.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: God, I bring you my needs. Help me receive good care and offer care to others.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Luke 11:5-13. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original DigiPick artwork made with AI assistance; an artistic interpretation.
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