

Discussion and Reflection Questions
9th Sunday after Pentecost - 26th of July 2026
Prayer - Week 4: Intercession

Read: Luke 18:9-14

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' ² He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

⁹ 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

Questions

1. The Lord's Prayer can be so familiar that it loses its impact from time to time. What parts of this prayer do you find the most profound, challenging or inspiring?
2. "Your kingdom come" is a prayer for God's purposes & promises to be realised. Where do you particularly long to see God's kingdom come—in your community, church or world?
3. In verses 9–10, what might Jesus mean by asking, seeking & knocking? How are persistence and trust related in intercessory prayer?
4. How should we understand Jesus' promise that those who ask will receive, especially when some prayers appear to go unanswered?
5. Jesus promises the Holy Spirit in v13. How might the Spirit guide, sustain or reshape our intercession when we do not know what to pray?
6. How has or can intercessory prayer shift your focus or intent for prayer?
7. Have you had someone intercede in prayer for you & how has that made you feel or impacted the situation?

Prayer

Faithful God, whose heart is moved by the cries of your people, teach us to pray not only for ourselves but for all in need, that your kingdom may come in mercy and in power; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.