

WORDS OF JESUS

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE PERSISTENT FRIEND

SPEAKER: Bo Stern Brady

DATE: May 24, 2026

TEXT(S): Luke 11:1-13, with Psalm 34:17, 116:1-2; Jer. 29:12, 33:3; and 1 John 5:14

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: *This resource is designed to help you, and your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message.*

Our goal is to help you and your group better understand and apply B4's teaching.

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

In Luke 11, Jesus reframes prayer not as begging a reluctant God, but as approaching a loving Father with confidence. The “persistent friend” from Jesus’ parable isn’t there to teach us that God must be persuaded to care. Instead, the story is part of a teaching that reveals a God who is nothing like the grumpy neighbor. Jesus invites His followers into fearless nearness with the Father. He offers a relationship marked by trust, welcome, and belonging. Persistent prayer will grow out of our honest need and dependence, but it is not asked to carry shame. We ask, seek, and knock because we are children in the Kingdom, fully seen and lovingly received by a good Father.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5 minutes.*

1. Share about a time when you had to ask someone for help, and it felt a little uncomfortable.
2. When you think about persistence, what examples come to mind from everyday life?
3. What’s one thing you always seem to run out of at the worst possible moment?
4. Which would be harder for you: asking a neighbor for help at midnight, or being the neighbor answering the door at midnight?
5. If someone knocked on your door at midnight asking for food, what’s the absolute best you could realistically offer them right now from your pantry?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) from the teaching. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Why do you think Jesus begins this teaching with “Our Father” before telling the parable?
2. Why might Jesus intentionally choose “midnight” as the setting for the story?
3. What does the contrast between the reluctant neighbor and the generous Father teach us about God’s character?
4. What repeated words or themes stand out throughout Luke 11:1–13?

5. How does this teaching connect prayer to identity, not just requests?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.*

Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:

1. How does culture encourage people to hide weakness or neediness?
2. In what ways do most people today project unhealthy parental experiences onto God?
3. Why do you think so many people assume God is disappointed or distant?
4. What are some modern “empty-handed” moments where people realize they lack what the situation requires?
5. How does a performance-driven culture affect the way people pray or approach God?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself.*

Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:

1. Where in your life do you currently feel like you “have no bread” for the moment in front of you?
2. What keeps you from approaching God with honesty and confidence?
3. How might your prayer life change if you truly believed the Father welcomes you without reluctance?
4. What is one area where you’ve stopped asking, seeking, or knocking?
5. What would “fearless nearness” with God look like practically this week?

LIVE IT OUT: *These prayer practices can help you integrate this message into day-to-day life.*

Choose one prompt and discuss how you will embrace it this week (5 minutes):

1. Begin every prayer this week with “Father.” Don’t just say, “God” or “Jesus,” but really lean into God’s fatherly heart as you begin to pray. Intentionally address God as a loving Father. Spend some time as you begin, reflecting on one attribute Jesus reveals about our Father: His generosity, attentiveness, welcoming heart, protective oversight, or joyful Presence.
2. Practice “Empty-Handed Prayer” each day by honestly bringing one area of need before your Father. Instead of offering solutions or polished words, simply confess: “I don’t have any bread for this moment.” Sit quietly and invite God’s presence and provision into that need.

You can find B4’s [Series Resources here](#).

