

## How Jesus Prayed (And What He Said About It)

*There's much to be gained when we listen to what Jesus said about prayer and look at how Jesus prayed: his priority on getting time with God, his teachings to encourage us in resilient prayers, and even the intimate prayers recorded in the Gospels between God the Father and God the Son. It's all there for us to experience communion with God when we follow Jesus into the secret place of prayer.*

### Week 2: Don't Give Up

- 1. Read Luke 11:1-13.** Jesus shares what to pray (v2-4), how to pray (v5-8), and why to pray (v9-13). Many people are familiar with his model prayer, but far fewer know the story of the two neighbors. Jesus uses this story to encourage an unabashed boldness in our prayers - what the NIV translates as "shameless audacity." Part of the point of the story is **don't give up praying**. Why? **Because God loves to give good gifts** when we ask. What sticks out to you when you hear this story from Jesus? How is God similar to and different from the friend woken up in the story?
- 2. Read Luke 18:1-8. Don't give up praying, because God alone can set the world right.** In that time, widows were powerless. But her persistence wins the day. What do you think Jesus wants hearers to understand in his contrast between God and the unjust judge? What are the biggest reasons you think we lose heart and stop praying? If God knows what we need, why are we supposed to pray to him over and over?
- 3. Read Luke 22:40-46.** Jesus prays and calls his disciples to pray just before his greatest trial. In Matthew's account, he says, *"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."* (Matthew 26:41) Jesus connects the ability to endure with the need for prayer. **Don't give up praying, because your faith is formed by your prayers.** When times get hard or life is overwhelming, where do you turn? Can you think of a time in your life when prayer was a source of strength?
- 4. Read Hebrews 7:25. Jesus has never given up praying for you.** It is an astounding thought that Jesus "ever lives to intercede" for us. He's always ready to advocate on our behalf. Knowing that Jesus is persisting on our behalf can help us persist in prayer. For those who feel led, share if there is a prayer you lost heart and gave up praying. Finish lifting up those prayers together, and asking God for resilience and boldness in your prayer lives.

