

This Study Guide is based on a sermon by Dr. Joshua Mack. You will find the link to the sermon here.

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?sid=22717935516>

Luke 11:1-4

Swahili

Ikawa alipokuwa mahali fulani akiomba, alipokwisha, mmoja katika wanafunzi wake alimwambia, Bwana, tufundishe sisi kusali, kama vile Yohana alivyowafundisha wanafunzi wake. Akawaambia, Msalipo, semeni, Baba [yetu uliye mbinguni], Jina lako litakaswe, Ufalme wako uje, [Mapenzi yako yatimizwe, hapa duniani kama huko mbinguni.] Utupe siku kwa siku riziki yetu. Utusamehe dhambi zetu, kwa kuwa sisi nasi tunamsamehe kila tumwiaye. Na usitutie majaribuni [lakini tuokoe na yule mwovu].

Zulu

Kwathi ekhuleka endaweni ethile, esegcinile, omunye wabafundi bakhe wathi kuye: “Nkosi, sifundise ukukhuleka, njengokuba uJohane naye wabafundisa abafundi bakhe.” Wayesethi kubo: “Nxaxa nikhuleka, anothi: “ ‘Baba wethu osezulwini, malingcweliswe igama lakho; mawufike umbuso wakho; mayenziwe intando yakho emhlabeni njengasezulwini; usiphe isinkwa sethu sezinsuku zonke imihla ngemihla; usithethelele izono zethu, ngokuba nathi sibathethelela bonke abanecala kithi; ungasingenisi ekulingweni, kodwa usikhulule kokubi.’ ”

Shona

Mumwe musu Jesu akanga achinyengetera ari pane imwe nzvimbo. Akati apedza, mumwe wavadzidzi vake akati kwaari, “Ishe, tidzidzisei kunyengetera, saJohani akadzidzisa vadzidzi vake.” Iye akati kwavari, “Kana muchinyengetera, muti: “ ‘Baba vedu vari kudenga, zita renyu ngarikudzwe noutsvene. Umambo hwenyu ngahuuye. Kuda kwenyu ngakuitwe panyika sezvinoitwa kudenga. Tipei zuva nezuva chingwa chedu chamazuva namazuva. Uye mutiregerere zvivi zvedu; nokuti nesuwo tinoregerera vose vanotitadzira. Tibatsirei kuti tisapinda mukuedzwa; uye mutinunure pane zvakaipa.’ ”

Afrikaans

Jesus was êrens op 'n plek besig om te bid. Toe Hy klaar was, sê een van sy dissipels vir Hom: “Here, leer ons bid, soos Johannes ook sy volgelinge geleer het.” En Hy sê vir hulle: “Wanneer julle bid, sê dan: “Vader, laat u Naam geheilig word; laat u koninkryk kom. Gee ons elke dag ons daaglikse

brood; en vergeef ons ons sondes, want ons vergewe ook elkeen wat teen ons oortree; en laat ons nie in versoeking kom nie.”

Sermon Summary:

Over the next several weeks, we are going to be looking at what Jesus teaches about prayer. We talked this Sunday about the what it means to say and really mean, “Your Kingdom Come.”

Basic Discussion Questions:

1. What have you been learning about prayer recently? How are you growing in your prayer life?
2. Let's read Luke 11:1-4. (Does anyone have these verses memorized yet?)
3. One of the reasons the Lord Prayer is so important for us to study is because people often get prayer wrong. Can you think of any of the examples we gave on Sunday of ways people get prayer wrong?
4. One specific way people get prayer wrong is that they think of it as something God needs, instead of realizing that God designed prayer because of our needs. What are some of the ways that God intends prayer to help us? (Think especially about the ways we mentioned this past Sunday.)
5. Sometimes we think of prayer as an opportunity to get God's plan back in line with our desires, when prayer really is an opportunity to get our desires back in line with God's plan. This is something we see in the request, “Your Kingdom come.” This is God's great plan, and requesting this, is really a statement of hope. We are saying, this is what we want, most.
6. If you look at your prayers over the past months, what do they reveal about your hopes? If someone tape recorded your prayers and listened to them, what would they say you were hoping for? What does Jesus wanting us to be hoping for?
7. To understand this phrase, we have to answer three questions – whose kingdom is this? What kingdom is Jesus talking about? And what does it mean for that kingdom to come?
8. Are there any thoughts or questions you have about the kingdom of God and what it means to pray this prayer?
9. Essentially this Sunday was a reminder to set your hope fully on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus returns and to look forward in prayer and long for what God has planned. What keeps you from doing that?
10. Having read the application guide provided, what can you do to work on becoming more biblically hopeful?
11. What difference should this request make on your prayer life?

Application Guide

Instead of giving you questions this week, I am providing a short explanation of how to work on becoming more hopeful. Please read this before Gospel

Community. Underline two sentences that stood out to you. Circle one specific application that you think you are doing well with and another specific application you think you can work on.

Dehydration.

If you wanted to weaken the strongest man, you only need to take one thing away from him. Liquids. It doesn't matter how naturally active he is or how much he has trained in the past, without liquid, it will only be a matter of time until he won't even have the energy to get off the couch.

When it comes to living the Christian life, hope is a little like that. If you can take away a person's hope, you take away their strength.

Unfortunately, while we don't have many people trying to block our access to liquids, there are many circumstances and situations that come into our lives that make it difficult to hope, or at least, to put our hope in the right things. Because obviously, we as Christians do not merely want to be optimistic people, we want to be hopeful people, people who are putting our hope squarely where God wants us to put our hope.

And that takes some work. Peter puts it like this, "Fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." Did you catch that? Fix. Not let your hope drift to the grace to be brought to you. Put it there. Deliberately.

But how? How can we work on hoping in our hope?

1. **Pray for a special work of the Spirit of God in your life.** Daily ask God to fill you up with a knowledge of the glorious hope that you have in Christ Jesus.
2. **Study Scriptures that talk about your future.** When you study what the Scripture says about the future, make them relevant to your situation. Read 1 Corinthians 15 as if it were talking about your future resurrection body because it is. Imagine your body coming flying up out of the grave and being transformed instantly into a body that is so glorious even the angels say wow.
3. **Fight against wrong language and ways of speaking.** The Bible says don't grieve as those who have no hope. In other words, don't let yourself start talking and thinking like unbelievers. One example of this would be any ways of talking as if God weren't for you. If you are a believer God is for you, He is actively seeking your good and He will accomplish it. That means when I look to the future, I should not talk as if God weren't in the middle of my circumstances. I shouldn't speak as if my situation were out of control.
4. **Avoid preferring a lesser hope.** Sometimes it seems like the greatest dream of many Christians is to get to the place in life where they don't have to trust in God any longer. If only my bank account were so filled that I never had to think about money, then I would be confident. Well, that would be nice but is that really better than having the sovereign God of the universe make a promise to you that if you seek first his kingdom he will provide for you in the ways you need most? I am guessing it would be nice to drive a BMW but is that really worth as many thoughts and as much excitement as standing

before God on judgment day and having him say that you are holy, blameless and above reproach?

5. **Memorize and meditate on relevant promises of God.** Think of God's promises like fruit that is hanging on the top of a tree and just because the fruit doesn't fall down the first time you shake the tree doesn't mean you should stop, keep on shaking that tree until the fruit falls down and you can enjoy it.

6. **Avoid continuous association with hopeless people as much as possible.** There are some people who are walking minus signs. And certainly you should love them and try to encourage them, but you don't want to be mentored by them. Unfortunately sometimes we aren't on our guard and so we are spending time with people who really aren't thinking biblically or talking biblically, instead while they might call themselves Christians, they are really looking at life like someone who doesn't believe in God. Watch out. These kind of people can siphon the hope right out of your gas tank without you even realizing what is happening at first.

7. **Spend time with hope filled people.** The Bible talks about encouraging one another day after day. If you meet someone who really is placing his hope in the right place, get to know that person. Listen to the way they talk. Imitate the way they live. How do you heat up a coal? Place it in with other hot coals and the same can be true spiritually, you want to heat up your hope, develop deep relationships with people who are fired up for the return of Christ.

8. **Read biographies of hope filled people.** What passes as normal Christianity isn't always normal Christianity. It is fun to read biographies and to see normal Christianity. Sometimes you read a story and you think man, what if someone lived like this today? There are definitely churches where they would get in trouble for what? Putting their hope in the right place! It is helpful as well to read biographies that present the real story and not just so glorified "Hollywood" version where everything is easy. It helps your hope to realize that great saints sometimes struggled to have hope. You begin to realize there are ups and downs to the Christian life, you get your expectations straight, it enables you to keep fighting for hope because you realize you are not the first one who had to fight for it.

9. **Learn to take charge of your thoughts.** What if your real problem isn't what you think your real problem is? What if the real problem is not so much your circumstances as it is the way you are thinking about your circumstances? When you are beginning to become discouraged it can be so difficult to believe that, but begin asking yourself what would be a different way of thinking about this situation? How would I be thinking if I believe God were in control? If I believed God loved me so much He sent His Son to die in my place? If God was using this difficult situation for my good? And then consciously and deliberately seek to think that way and recognize that other thoughts are not based on reality.

10. **Attempt to organize your life according to your hope.** Sit down and say, o.k. I believe in heaven, I believe I am going to stand before God one day, I believe that Jesus is coming back, I believe that eternity is what matters most, I believe that God will reward acts of faith, how should that impact me today? How should that impact my choices? Scary? Yes, sure, but look, if you start actually deliberately making choices on the basis of those realities, and

“storing up treasures in heaven” you know what is going to happen, your heart is going to follow. You know why so many people who say they believe in heaven aren’t really hoping in heaven but instead hoping in the things of this life, it is because that is where they are spending all their time and money and energy storing up treasures. Your heart will follow your treasures, so start putting your treasures in the right place!