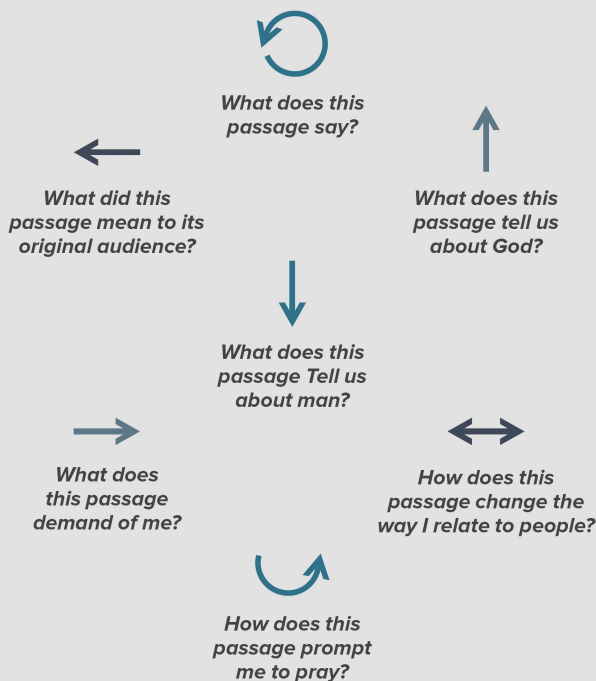


# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One LUKE 11:1

The disciples, as faithful Jews, had grown up praying consistently. According to Jewish customs, they prayed three times a day—morning, noon, and evening. Rabbis often wrote out prayers they would have their disciples recite over and over. However, the disciples observed in Jesus' prayers something different than they had ever experienced. It wasn't a matter of obligation, and the words He prayed weren't simply a matter of repetition. Jesus prayed because, deep down in His spirit, He longed for the intimacy with His Father afforded only by spending time in prayer. The disciples wanted to experience this for themselves, so they asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray ..."

➤ **When do you feel like your prayers are a matter of obligation, the words are repetition, or maybe even that your prayers are meaningless?**

➤ **How would you rate your desire to pray like Jesus prayed?**

## Day Two

# LUKE 11:2a



The first thing Jesus taught the disciples about prayer is that they should address God as “Father.” Picture the shock on the disciples’ faces when they heard this—they’d been taught all their lives that Abraham was their father, and the Lord was the God of their fathers. However, God was seen as far above and altogether different (which is indeed true), even to the point that many wouldn’t dare speak His name. To refer to God as *abba*—“daddy”—in the language of intimacy was different than anything they’d ever heard. Yet this is exactly how Jesus calls His followers to address God. He is our Father, and He loves us. In return, we are called to honor God with our lives and our hearts.

➤ **How has God been like a Father to you?**

➤ **What are some practical ways you seek to honor God as holy in the ways you live every day?**

## Day Three

# LUKE 11:2b

When Jesus came proclaiming the gospel, He spoke of the kingdom of God—“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15). The kingdom of God exists where people submit to the reign of Jesus. This is certainly the case in heaven, and Jesus’ coming to earth was a part of God’s plan to establish His kingdom on the earth, though not fully and finally. To pray “let your kingdom come” is not just a request for Jesus to come again when He will fully establish His reign, but is our expressing the deep desire to see the rule of Christ realized in the world today, as well as our committing to work toward this end. In the ultimate sense, Jesus reigns. However, in the world today, God has allowed us the freedom to choose living either in obedience to Him or in rebellion. Let’s submit ourselves to the reign of Christ and pray continually that others do the same.

➤ **In what areas of your life have you refused to submit to the rule of Jesus?**

➤ **How, specifically, will you pray this week that Jesus would rule in your life, your family, school, and community?**

## Day Four

# LUKE 11:3

Sometimes, we expect God to make us comfortable in this life and give us the things we need to feel secure for a lifetime. However, this isn't the way Jesus taught us to pray. He said we should ask God for bread—not burgers and fries, pizza and ice cream. And only enough for today, not months and months worth of food in the fridge and pantry. This principle applies not only to the food we eat, but to every need in our lives. God has promised to supply all our needs (Phil. 4:19), yet often He gives us so much more. When He does, it should move us to be grateful for His generosity. When we have only enough to meet our most basic needs—food and clothing for today (1 Tim. 6:8)—we should be completely content. It's okay to ask God for the things we desire, but we should continually evaluate our desires in light of God's purposes, seeking to align our desires with His. If we find we're asking for more than the things we really need, we must make sure these are never demands or expectations, and that we're satisfied with whatever God provides.

- **How has God provided for more than your basic needs?**
- **How would you evaluate your heart in terms of gratitude for what God provides? How will you adjust your attitude and expectations?**

## Day Five

# LUKE 11:4



Scripture teaches that, if we confess our sins, God will forgive us in His faithfulness and justice (1 John 1:9). When we come to faith in Christ, God forgives our sins once and for all. However, as long as we're in this life, we'll continue to struggle with sin. Therefore, it is necessary that we continually confess our sins to God so that no sin hinders our relationship with Him. And as we experience God's forgiveness, we will naturally be inclined to forgive others. After all, we've offended God in the worst ways, yet the ways others sin against us aren't nearly as offensive. If God forgives us, then He expects we would forgive others. As we do, we reflect the nature of God to the world.

- **When have you struggled to forgive someone who's hurt you?**
- **How would you describe the nature of forgiveness God has offered to you?**