



Stories Jesus Told – Midnight Visitor

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 1)

TRADITIONAL DISCUSSION MODEL

When have you “forgotten yourself” because you were so distraught or concerned about something?

Read through Luke 11:5-8 and have the group make observations.

Who do you most identify with in this story: The traveling guest? The host? The neighbor who has bread?

Do you think the main message of this story is about being persistent in prayer, our heart for others, or our real belief in God? Why?

Rate your “prayer persistence factor” on a scale of 1-10. How does the lesson of this story affect that?

What did this story challenge in you?

Read through a parallel version of this story in Luke 18:1-8. What are the similarities between the two versions? What are the contrasts? What additional perspectives on prayer does this version bring out?

What questions remain for you about this parable?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 2)

CONTEMPLATIVE DISCUSSION MODEL:

What are you learning about God from this story?

What are you learning about yourself from the story?

What questions does this story bring up for you?

What is God doing in your heart lately?

What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you?

What is the biggest thing causing you concern these days? (something to pray about)



Leader's Guide: Midnight Visitor **Luke 11:5-8**

Sometimes a story is the *only* way to understand. Stories break through in places where data, facts and creeds cannot. A story can help us understand things that cannot be understood by mere instruction - things like God, love, the world, or ourselves. We lose ourselves in stories, and every once in a while, we find ourselves – especially in *The Stories Jesus Told*.

OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES ***Midnight Visitor***

Luke 11:1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just 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 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.” 5 *Then he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, 6 because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.’ 7 “Then the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ 8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. 9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

We pray bold and shameless prayers when we connect the great needs of the world with our inadequacy to resolve them - and the inexhaustible capacity of God.