

## ***Going Deeper for December 27, 2009***

This section is provided for those who may wish to spend time this week going deeper with the material from the sermon, or for study in small groups. This is an optional opportunity to take the message and internalize and deepen your understanding. Small groups are welcome to do pieces of this as time allows.

Prior to reading Luke 11:1-13, take a few moments to do a quick inventory of your prayer life.

- 1) How often do you pray? What do these times look like? If you remember Jesus pattern of prayer and life, what element of a prayer life could you cultivate this year?
- 2) What are your greatest hang ups in prayer? Are they mental, environmental, and/or spiritual? Write these down! Don't be afraid to name them and write them down. We all need to grow.
- 3) What scares you the most about prayer? What excites you the most about prayer?

Now, read Luke 11:1-13. Read it 2-3 times slowly and thoughtfully.

- 1) What stands out to you about Jesus answer to the disciple's question?
- 2) Read Luke 5:33-39 and also Luke 18:1-14. From what you read, what characterizes the person whose prayer is pleasing to God? What surprises you about the different groups? How do these passages help you understand Luke 11:1-13?
- 3) What is the most reassuring description of God in this passage? What motivates you to pray more from 11:1-13?
- 4) What impact does the word "whenever" carry in this passage on prayer? Does it change the context for our normal understanding of reciting the "Lord's Prayer"?
- 5) Take a few moments and write out the prayer structure given in 11:2-4. There are five requests. What are the requests – note the details given in the text? Rewrite this prayer for yourself, in your own words, and then use this as a template to guide your prayers this week and "whenever".