

OCC Connections Bible-Study (Group or Personal)

The Friend at Midnight: Luke 11:5-8 (*read 5-13 for context*)

Big Idea: Because our Father is generous, disciples pray with **shameless persistence** and become part of His provision.

1) Read: Luke 11:5-13 and pray to God for understanding.

2) Observe the Text (choose 2–3)

- What details stand out in vv.5-7 (midnight, nothing to set before him, door shut, children in bed)?
- Where is the **turn** in v.8, and what exactly causes it?
- What repeated words/ideas connect vv.5-8 with vv.9-13?

3) See the Connections

- **Hinge Map:** How does this parable sit **between** the Lord's Prayer (vv.1-4, "daily bread") and the promise (vv.9-13, "ask/seek/knock")? List two links (e.g., *bread, Father*).
- **Word Work: "anaideia" (v.8):** What does *shameless boldness* add to the story? How is that different from being rude?

- **Cross-References:** Read **Luke 18:1-8** and **Matt 7:7-11**. Where is persistence similar? How is God portrayed in each text? Optional: **Jeremiah 33:3**; **1 John 5:14-15**.

4) Interpret (what it means)

- **Prayer Begins with the Heart:** Why is it important that the request is **for another person**? How does approaching a **Friend and in Christ, our Father** shape how you pray?
- **Be Persistent in Prayer:** Jesus argues **lesser** → **greater** (sleepy friend vs. willing Father). Where might you be stopping short of “knock again”?
- **God Provides Our Daily Bread:** Where have you seen God place “bread” in your hands **for someone else**? How does receiving lead to **sharing**?

5) Apply (how we live)

- **Believe and Begin a Relationship with Christ:** If you’re not sure you’ve started with Jesus, what would it look like to **begin** today?
- **Practice Persistent Prayer:** Pick one “**midnight need**.” For 7 days, keep an **Ask–Seek–Knock** log:
 - **Ask:** _____
 - **Seek (Scripture/counsel):**

- **Knock (obedience step):**
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- **Be Prepared to Help Unexpectedly:** This week, be **inconvenience-ready**. Who will you serve (meal, ride, childcare, prayer, generosity)? Plan one action:

6) Pray the Text (Luke 11:9-13)

- **Thanksgiving:** “Father, you are generous.”
- **Petition:** Each person offers **one sentence** for a specific need.
- **Surrender:** “Align our asking with Your will.”
- **Sending:** “Give us bread to share.”

7) Life-Stage Helps (use what fits)

- **Parents/Kids:** Retell the story; kids **knock** when you say “ask/seek/knock.” Pray for one friend and plan one simple hospitality step.
- **Couples/Roommates:** Share one place you struggle to ask for help—from God or each other. Choose one humble step together.
- **Students/Young Adults:** Set three reminders (AM/noon/PM) to pray Luke 11:9 for a classmate or coworker; send one encouraging text.

- **New to Faith:** Re-read vv.9–13 and write one sentence about **who God is**, then ask Him for one specific thing tonight.

Additional Notes or Questions: