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Bible Study | Faith in Action

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## Prepare

- Bible
- Journal
- Pen/pencil

## Get Started

Think about a time when you experienced a desperate need and had to boldly ask someone for help. Maybe you had a medical emergency, a traveling mishap, or a miscommunication that left you in a vulnerable position. How did you ask for help? How did that person respond?

## Study and Learn

### Read Luke 11:5–8.

Before we dive into this story, looking at its surrounding context is important. In verses 1–4, one of Jesus’ disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, and Jesus shared one of the most well-known passages of Scripture, the Lord’s Prayer. In verses 9–10, we see another well-known set of verses about asking, seeking, and knocking. In verses 11–13, Jesus compared a son asking his father for food to the disciples asking God for the Holy Spirit.

Considering the text around verses 5–8, it’s safe to say we can read this parable through the lens of prayer.

- Before reading further in this devotion, read the parable in verses 5–8 again.
- What do you think Jesus could be saying about prayer?

People in Jesus’ culture placed a high value on hospitality. The fact this man was unprepared to host a friend would have been humiliating and even shameful. We don’t know why he didn’t have bread—maybe he was out of work, struggling to provide for himself, or had mismanaged money and resources. Whatever the reason, this man was in a desperate state.

However, this man’s disgraceful situation did not stop him from approaching his neighbor at midnight to ask for bread. This neighbor didn’t want to get up and help, even though the man called him a friend. Only because of the man’s “shameless audacity” did the neighbor rise and give him as much as he needed (v. 8).

This parable illustrates how we, as followers of Jesus, can approach God in prayer. Unlike the neighbor in this story, God cares about us and our worries (1 Peter 5:7). The point of the story is not that God begrudgingly helps us when we don’t deserve it; on the contrary, God delights in helping His children in need, and because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross, we can approach Him boldly (Heb. 4:14–16).

Although this man was in an embarrassing, shameful situation, that did not stop him from fearlessly asking his neighbor for what he needed. This story empowers believers to boldly approach the throne of God in prayer, not despite our need for help, but because of His great love and mercy.



## Apply

- What might stop you from coming to God in a time of need?
- Based on Luke 11, what do you think Jesus would encourage you to do?

## Follow Up

- Read the following verses in Luke 11:9–10.
- What is the difference between the three words *ask*, *seek*, and *knock*? Why might Jesus have used these words? (*Hint: You might want to use Blue Letter Bible, a free online resource that allows you to look up the original Greek words and understand their meaning.*)

## Commit to Memory

Verses: **Luke 11:9–10**

Challenge: **Hebrews 4:16**

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**RACHEL SINCLAIR** is a writer who loves to share stories and help people grow deeper in their walk with Christ. Connect with her at [rachelsinclair.net](http://rachelsinclair.net) and on Instagram at [@rachelsinclairwrites](https://www.instagram.com/rachelsinclairwrites).

# Faith in Action | Become a Walking Prayer

By Terri Staines

Prayerwalking is just what it sounds like—the combination of walking and praying around a particular location. In discussing his book *Follow Me: Becoming a Lifestyle Prayerwalker*, author and retired missionary Randy Sprinkle said, “In real prayerwalking, the orientation is not us and our desires but Christ and His desires. . . . Real prayerwalking only comes naturally to those who walk supernaturally. . . . The results of this kind of prayerwalking are transformative and eternal.”

## How Do I Prayerwalk?

First, realize no matter where God leads you to prayerwalk, He is there already preparing the way. Below are some helpful tips you can follow as you plan:

- Map your route to plan your walk, and track where you have been. The street where you live is a great place to start. You can also walk in a variety of other areas, such as schools, churches, neighborhoods, city and county office buildings, hospitals, recreation areas, local businesses, and fire and emergency services stations.
- You can prayerwalk in a group or alone. Either way, always tell someone where you are going, and make sure you choose a safe route. Carry your cell phone, but silence it to limit distractions. Never walk at night.

- If prayerwalking with a group, remember prayerwalking should be done by Christians who genuinely seek to see and hear the world around them through God’s eyes.
- You can pray silently or aloud, but do not be so animated as to draw attention to yourself. God hears you either way.
- Praying through Scripture or from prewritten lists is a good way to start. As you get more comfortable, allow the Holy Spirit to guide your words as your eyes see the needs around you.
- Biking and driving are also great alternatives. Or do a virtual prayerwalk using a maps application.
- Make note of nearby ministries or organizations you and your church could collaborate with.
- Afterward, journal about your walks so you can rejoice when you see how God has answered your prayers.

## What Are the Results of Prayerwalking?

Prayerwalking is a spiritual discipline God can and will use to revive our hearts and prayers and move us into proactively working alongside Him. Psalm 66:19 reminds us, “But God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.” Be transformed into a walking pray-er with a renewed mind able to discern the will of God (see Romans 12:2).

**TERRI STAINES** writes from Ray City, Georgia. Though she prefers prayerwalking alone, she has joined prayerwalking groups to pray for specific places and needs.