



# Rock Solid

## DAILY DEVOTION

Hey, North Ridge Family! Here are this week's Daily Devos. Our hope is that you will process each of these devos according to how you can respond and love on your family and our city.

### DAY 1

#### READ MATTHEW 7:7-8

We are talking about prayer this week. Jesus has already addressed prayer in the Sermon on the Mount, but He comes back to the subject again. If He repeats a subject, it must mean it is important. We need to pray.

Jesus will teach us about prayer through three parables and one principle.

The principle: Keep on asking and you will receive.

If God doesn't answer us, it's because He knows better. When we pray, our gift isn't always to receive what we want, but instead to receive the presence of the Father, which is what we really need most.

Ask, Seek, Knock. These statements are not suggestions, they're commands: You ask! You seek! You knock! And not just one time; ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking. When Jesus uses this language, what He's saying is, 'Don't stop praying. Pray and keep on praying!'

What does a prayer life look like that follows this principle?  
How does your prayer life line up with Jesus' command?

## DAY 2

### READ LUKE 8:1-2 READ LUKE 11:5-8

Next, we'll look at two of the parables Jesus uses to better our understanding. Luke tells us the meaning of the parable before we read it: keep on praying; do not lose heart, even when you feel like you are not being heard. Jesus is saying when that happens keep on praying.

Have you ever had a child keep asking the same thing over and over again? For Pastor Dean, his granddaughter, Isla, asks him if she can have cake for breakfast. Maybe your kids do the same thing! Eventually, we are worn down and we give in. Our Father says, 'keep on asking, wear me out with prayer.' That is the point of this story—God wants us to keep on asking!

What else is Jesus trying to say in these parables? Is God really like a Judge who doesn't care but can be worn down if we're asking long enough? Or is God like a neighbor who just wants to sleep so he gives us what we want so we'll leave him alone? No, Jesus is contrasting the sleeping neighbor and judge with God, who is a good Father. Jesus is saying, 'If you can be persistent and convince someone to help you who doesn't want to help you, then how much more does your Father who loves you want to help you? Do not stop praying; keep asking, seeking, knocking.'

What are you praying for?  
How does your prayer life compare to the one described by Jesus in the parables?

## DAY 3

### READ JEREMIAH 29:7

We, as God's people, are urged to engage with the world around us and not to withdraw from it. We are challenged not to retreat, but be involved in the mess of everyday life.

The theologian J.I. Packer said, "Pray your way through the newspaper." Pray for the families in our city to know that God is FOR them. Pray that families dream again. Pray that families dream again here in Asheboro and Randleman; dream again in Juarez, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. Pray that we can play a role in connecting them with physical and spiritual resources and relationships so that we can take our next steps together.

So, ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking. This is the promise of Jesus: For everyone who asks, seeks, knocks, and doesn't stop, the door will be opened.

What things in our world would change if your prayers were answered?

## DAY 4

### READ 2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

Have you ever prayed for something and felt like it never made it out of the room? What do you do with the promise of Jesus that everyone who asks, receives and yet there are a lot of things we pray for and do not receive? Paul helps us understand. He says, "Three times I pleaded to get rid of this thorn in my flesh, but God answers, 'That thing that you are asking me to remove, is the thing that is perfecting my power in you.'" Paul understands when he says, "I am content in not getting what I ask for if God is using it for His glory. In all things, God is working, even those things we wish would be removed."

Asking, Seeking and Knocking does not always result in what we think we want, but it does bring us the chance to find God himself, which is what we desperately need more than anything else. Jesus submitted himself to the same thing on the night before he was to face the judgment of the Father. He prayed, "If there be any other way, please remove this from me. Nevertheless, your will be done." The point of prayer is not that you get what you want, but to get God. God is the treasure!

Describe the difference between praying for what you think you want vs praying for what God wants for you.

## DAY 5

### READ MATTHEW 7:9-11

We are imperfect. In fact, Jesus says we are evil! Then he contrasts us with God, the perfect Father. If we give good gifts as imperfect as we are, what kind of gifts does the perfect Father give?

Tim Keller said, "God answers your prayers the same way you would if you knew what God knows." In other words, God is God and we are not! We are imperfect parents and yet we welcome our children in their moment of need. Tim Keller describes our relationship with God this way—the only one who dares wake up the King for a drink of water is the child of the King. We have that kind of access.

That is what prayer is—just asking. Trust that he is a Good Father. If it doesn't go the way you think, remember that He knows what you don't know. When prayers go unanswered, trust that God's grace is sufficient for you. Jesus gives us this principle of prayer: Keep on asking and you will receive. If God doesn't answer, He knows better, and you will receive the presence of the Father, which is what you need most.

How will you apply this principle to your daily prayer life?

Do you have someone to remind you of your value and God's vision for you, to discover Jesus with, to walk with you during anxious times? Have you considered creating a DNA group—three people of your same gender, committed to meeting weekly to discover, nurture, and act on your relationship with Jesus, together?