



Ten minutes with Luke 11

A friend at midnight

Shameless audacity



Aim: To have a fresh picture of God's availability to be part of our (prayer) lives.

Setting your sights: Search for Friends Theme Song to show online or play offline.

(In session 12 we're using [effervescent vitamin tablets](#); you might want to look for them now.)



While eating lunch: Put the painting up on the screen; invite comments, questions, guesses and insights. A few minutes before the start of your 10 minutes, put on the Friends* theme tune "I'll be there for you" by the Rembrandts. Does that give any clues to this week's painting and passage?



Read the passage: [Luke 11:5-10](#) Point out that the first verses of the chapter include the Lord's Prayer; read it if you have time.



Discuss:

- What point is Jesus making about turning up at a friend's house at midnight?
- Good idea or not? It requires the "shameless audacity mentioned by May Smith in the film to keep knocking.
- So what point is Jesus making about God's response to our praying? That he'd rather not get out of bed for us?

The word "God" is not actually in v9 in most translations, although the New Century Version does put it in; "So I tell you, ask and God will give it to you."

- We talk about resilience and persistence as life skills; How important is it to keep on praying?
- Does God expect us to be driven to our knees?

Even the *Friends* TV series theme song acknowledges posture:

Your mother warned you there'd be days like these
But she didn't tell you when the world has brought you down to your knees



Reflect and wonder:

- When Jesus suggests that we knock, what is he expecting us to be asking for or seeking?
- Are there clues in the words of the Lord's Prayer? Hallowed/honoured? Kingdom? Daily bread? Forgiveness? Deliverance?



Action: Aim to pray the Lord's Prayer each day for the coming week using either the words of Luke 11:2-4 if everyone has access to a Gospel, or pray it from memory. Perhaps set a daily alarm on phones as a reminder.

*As the most streamed programme on Netflix, this generation of teenagers and older are soaking up the 236 episodes of the American sitcom as much as when originally broadcast from 1994 to 2004. We're not going to get drawn into the moral compass of the programme but the theme tune by The Rembrandts may be well known.



Background information to help you and your group with the passage, the painting and the film

[Luke 11:5-10](#) can be found in *Dear Theo* on p66, “Then Jesus said to them” to p66, “the one who knocks.”



Jesus’ disciples asked him to teach them to pray, v1, and then Luke records the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus then adds to that and illustrates it with the parable that we’ll look at today.

(*The Prayer Course* from 24/7 Prayer led by Pete Greig is a free online video course based on the Lord’s Prayer. Videos are 20 minutes long plus discussion time but worth a look. Google it!)

A Knock at the Door, 2017, Oil on Canvas, 30” x 40” Iain Campbell’s Exhibition Notes



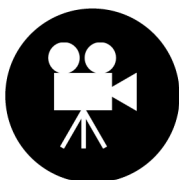
“Lord, teach us to pray”

Many people know the Lord’s Prayer off by heart. Most people wouldn’t remember what comes directly after it in Luke chapter 11. Jesus expands on how the disciples should pray with this odd parable, with someone being persistent to the point of being a nuisance to his friend.

Persistence in prayer is a theme which comes up twice in Luke; here and in “The Persistent Widow”. It seems just as important to Jesus to get across this idea of persistence in prayer, as it is to get across the form of prayer.

Alex, who is in the painting, has been a regular in the Wild Olive Tree Café, and is known for his persistent nature. Although he doesn’t have much money himself, he insisted on gifting Iain £5 for Christmas 2018 inside a card. The money paid for the paintbrush this portrait was painted with.

Blessed Are The Poor, Gospel Sketchbook YouTube Channel A breakdown of the accompanying film by Wiseman Films



0:00 to 1:33 The passage is read by one of the members of the church congregation

1:33 to 2:58 Iain Campbell tells the story of honouring a gift from Alec to buy a new brush and paint him in this painting.

2:58 to 5:00 Iain continues to talk about the Lord’s Prayer that he learned in primary school with no church background. He sees now that this parable follows as an illustration of persistence.

5:00 to 10:19 Smith who read the passage speaks of prayer in her own life as part of a spiritual battle showing persistence, stickability and shameless audacity.



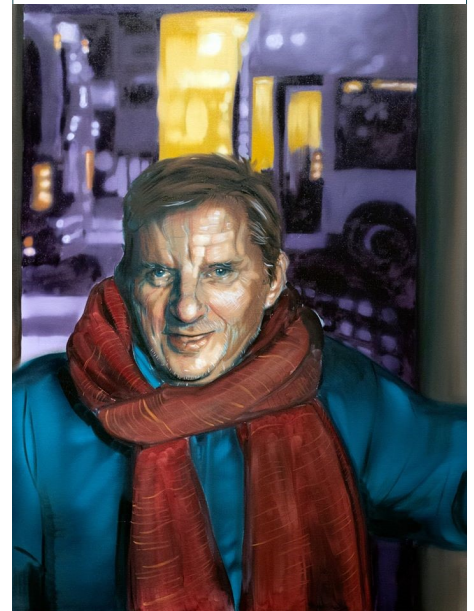
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