**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**January 13th 2019. Praying with the Saints**

**Discussion notes: Praying with Jesus. Luke 11.1-13 (c.f. Matthew 6:5-14)**

The Bible includes the prayers of many great men and women of God which are incredibly helpful in teaching us how to pray. Pre-eminent of course is Jesus himself. The one thing we read his disciples asking him to teach them is to pray. In Luke 11 Jesus does this, not just in the great and universal prayer of the Church, the Lord’s prayer, but on in the following verses about the spirit in which we petition God.

1. The Lord’s prayer starts with the simple word ‘Father’, literally in Aramaic ‘abba’ which is more like our ‘daddy’. What do we learn about prayer by using this word? How important is knowing the loving parenting of God to prayer itself? Have you watched loving parents and very small children interacting? What does their relationship teach us about prayer?
2. What do you understand by the phrase ‘Your Kingdom come’?
3. How would you sum up the three requests in the prayer in verses 3 and 4? Can you apply those requests to your own daily needs and devotional practices? How does ‘unforgiveness’ affect our ability to receive from God, and why?
4. My dictionary defines prayer as literally ‘to ask earnestly.’ How do you feel about boldly asking God for things?
5. What can we learn from Jesus’ teaching on ‘asking’ in verses 5-13? How persistent are we in prayer?

Try and imagine what it would like for God’s kingdom to come (and will to be done) on earth. Where that is not being done in situations that you know pray for his Kingdom to come today.