



**Date:** September 2nd, 2023

**Title:** That Sounds Like A Guarantee

**Scripture:** Luke 11:5-13

### **Introduction to Analog**

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else.” Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another, deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

### **Teaching Season**

There are several stories that cause one to wonder exactly who Jesus is. While we may be quick to offer an answer, Luke does no such thing. Rather he tells several stories of parables, interactions and miracles all leading up to Jesus asking the question himself: “Who do you say I am?” And we are invited to respond.

### **Teaching**

An initial reading of this week’s text might seem as though we get to ask God for whatever it is our hearts desire. We just need to be persistent enough to keep knocking until the home owner finally gets up and gives us what we need just to get us to be quiet. Is this how prayer works? God will deliver something to us, if only to get us to pipe down? Then Jesus speaks about asking and seeking and knocking, which is an idiom that refers to the study of Torah, and how one should approach the text. If we are faithful to pursue the text like this, then we will better understand what it means to ask God for good things. As Jesus concludes this brief teaching, he uses the metaphor of parents and children. Which, in this case, places the burden on the father, not the son. It becomes the responsibility of the father to be the one who gives the fish and eggs to his kids. A child does not come wondering if his Dad has it; he knows he does. This is the posture in which we explored our relationship with God and prayer, and how we can be bold and brazen in this relationship, trusting who God is.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

**Opening Question for the Group:** Start your group discussion with the question below.

1) What’s a day in your life you’d love to relive?

## **Questions for Discussion or Reflection**

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. When you imagine praying to God, what does God look like? Sound like? What is your impression of God?
2. How has prayer evolved, changed, grown, expanded for you in your life?
3. Interact with this quote from Barbara Brown Taylor: "One day, when [my granddaughter] asks me outright whether prayer really works, I am going to say, 'Oh, sweetie, of course it does. It keeps our hearts chasing after God's heart ...'"
4. How does it feel when you hear people speak about God's answering prayer as a guarantee?
5. What do you most often find yourself praying for?

### **Spiritual Practice:**

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Serenity Prayer](#)