**Open and Allow: The Nature of Prayer**

**The Word**

Read together Luke 11:4-13

**The Big Idea**

God is our heavenly Abba who invites us into an ongoing relationship with him through prayer by which we open up our hearts to him and allow him to speak to and engage with us.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Read through the three passages on prayer (and doors) mentioned on Sunday: Luke 11:4-13, Revelation 3:19-20, and John 10:7-10. Which image in those passages was most impactful or helpful for you and why?

2. What is your current experience with prayer? Without putting any judgment on your prayer life, share as specifically and concretely as you can what your actual experience and practice of prayer looks like these days.

3. On Sunday we discussed various images of God we may have that make it hard to open our hearts to him in prayer (for example, God has better things to do and it’s hard to get his attention, God is unhappy, angry, or disappointed with me, God isn’t interested in my desires, my desires aren’t legitimate, etc.). Can you identify a specific image you have that might make open and honest prayer more challenging for you?

4. On Sunday we talked about opening our heart’s desires to God in prayer and not holding back. What is one desire you have specifically regarding your own experience of prayer that you would love God to grant you?