

Not Just Another Story:

Good Gifts from the Father

From songs and novels to movies and TV, there is something unique about the power of stories and their ability to resonate with our hearts in compelling and moving ways. In the gospels, we see many accounts of Jesus telling parables and re-imagining stories to teach, equip and win the hearts of his hearers. And yet, Jesus wasn't a mere teacher or storyteller, but one who communicated, and is himself, the power of God for salvation. Let's examine what makes the stories of Jesus so unique, powerful and life giving to us today.

Ice Breaker Question:

What is the craziest thing you've ever asked for and been given?

What is the craziest thing you've ever given, that someone has asked of you?

Luke 11:5-13

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;' ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' ⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

⁹ "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

What stuck out to you? Share some observations from the passage.

What is something about how Jesus told this story that might have challenged the hearer's assumptions?

What is something about how Jesus told this story that challenges our assumptions?

When is it hard to believe God is good or generous? When is it easy?

How does this story show us the true realities of Jesus' life, the kingdom of God & the gospel?
What are some good gifts from our Heavenly Father? What is God's greatest gift?

If we have been changed by the gospel, how does today's discussion speak into our daily living?