

Luke 18:1-8 /// Week of May 5

Today's big idea: God answers prayer.

Today's story talks about a judge who gave a widow justice because she was annoying him constantly. That is the background for the ice breaker.

- What is a pet peeve that drives you crazy?
- Review the Community Group Guidelines together.
- What did you hear in the sermon that caught your attention?
- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.

Head

Be intentional to help the group look deeper into the Scripture. Particularly when describing the woman try to think deeper about what it meant for her as a widow to go before the judge in a male-dominated society.

- Use Bible Storytelling to tell the story of the Persistent Widow.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Luke 18:1-8 in the Bible.
- How would you describe the woman in the parable that Jesus made up to teach a lesson?
- What are the differences between how Jesus described the judge and what Jesus said about God?
- How does the end of verse 8 connect with the rest of the story?

Heart

The first question should invoke some tension. The story seems to encourage day and night prayer. Help the group process how their commitment to the Lord can and should be connected to their commitment to prayer.

- What does the amount of time we pray say about the amount of faith we have?
- The woman had no one else to depend on for justice. Who do you have to depend on and how does that impact your dependence on God?
- Praying day and night implies a long process yet Jesus promises justice quickly. How can we make sense of these two ideas?

Hands

The goal here is to help people take steps of faith. Try to encourage people to be real about where they really are right now. Then help them process what a next step could be and why it is important.

- What rhythms of prayer do you have in your life and what is a step of faith you can take in this regard?
- What is the biggest struggle you are praying through right now and how can you cry out to the Lord day about about it?

Next Week:

The story next week is the parable of the Good Samaritan. This might be a good opportunity to invite someone new in the group to lead the Bible Storytelling.

When Is It Okay to Be Unclean? Luke 10:25-37