

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Prayer: Persistent Prayer**APPLY // MATTHEW 6:6**

Take some time to review & apply the latest sermon.

1. Read Matthew 6:5-13.
2. Focusing on verses 5-6, why does Jesus call us toward private prayer?
3. Why do you think we often neglect private prayer?
4. What hindrances have you experienced in your private prayer life? What helps you prioritize and focus during times of private prayer?
5. How does involvement in gospel community fuel our private prayer life?
6. How could you use the Restoration Church covenant and membership directory to aid your prayer life?
7. What else from the sermon or text was helpful, encouraging, conviction or challenging for you?

STUDY // LUKE 18:1-8

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Note: Healthy Bible study asks three questions:

- **Observation:** What do I see?
- **Interpretation:** What does it mean?
- **Application:** Why does it matter?

The questions below focus primarily on observation and application. The following week we'll turn our attention to more application oriented questions.

1. Read Luke 18:1-8.
2. What type of genre is this passage of Scripture? How does that inform the way we interpret these verses?
3. What does verse 1 tell us about the point of Jesus' parable?
 - a. What does Jesus mean when he says his disciples "ought always to pray"?
 - b. What does he mean when he says to "not lose heart"?
4. Who do we learn about the judge? What do we learn about the widow?
5. What is Jesus' point in verse 6-7 when comparing the unrighteous judge to our just God?
 - a. NOTE: Jesus is not teaching us that we can wear down God like the widow wore down the cruel judge. Rather, this seems to be an argument of lesser to greater. If an unjust judge will do what is right, how much more will our just God do what is right? The focus is that the widow kept asking for justice, and she was vindicated. She was so confident that her request was the right thing that she kept asking for it, even from a cruel judge.
6. How does this widow inspire us to be persistent in prayer?
7. How does God's character encourage us to be persistent in our prayers?

8. How does Jesus end this parable? How does this question invite us to examine our prayer lives?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Spend time praying for the CG break.