

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Praying for Justice

LUKE 18:1-17

OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinners. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe Jesus' claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection ensures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

OBSERVE, INTERPRET & APPLY // LUKE 18:1-17

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.

Overview/Big Idea: God, in his mercy, gives to those who seek him.

1. Read Luke 1:1-4.
 - a. From these four verses, what do you learn about the Gospel of Luke?
 - b. Why did Luke write this gospel account of Jesus' life?
2. What have been some of the main themes we've seen through the first 17+ chapters?
3. Read Luke 17:20-37.
4. What is Luke's main point in this passage? Briefly discuss 2-3 ways this text applies to our lives individually and as a church family.
5. Read Luke 18:1-17.
 - a. Summarize this passage in a sentence(s).
 - i. God rewards the elect with Justice (vv. 1-8)
 - ii. God grants sinners justification (vv. 9-14)
 - iii. Give gives himself to those who receive him (vv. 15-17)
6. Focusing on verses 1-8:
 - a. What is the goal of Jesus' parable? What does this tell us about our natural temptations/inclinations?
 - b. What happens in verses 3-6?
 - c. What is Jesus conclusion about the character of God in verse 7?
 - d. Discuss the connection between justice and prayer. How might this inform our prayer life?
7. Focusing on verses 9-14:
 - a. According to verse 9, who is the audience of Jesus' parable in these verses?
 - b. What does it mean to trust in yourself that you are righteous?

- c. How does this parable expose the Pharisee's self-righteousness as seen in his posture and words? How are we tempted toward being self-righteous?
 - d. Contrast the Pharisee with the tax collector.
 - e. In verse 14, what is Jesus' conclusion?
 - f. What does it mean to "justified"?
 - g. What does it mean to "humble yourself"? What might this look like in our lives? How can we help each other pursue humility?
8. Focusing on verses 15-17:
- a. What is the disciple's response when infants are brought to Jesus? Why do you think they reacted this way?
 - b. How does Jesus respond?
 - i. What does it mean that "for to such belongs the Kingdom of God?"
 - ii. What does it mean to "receive the Kingdom of God like a child?"
 - iii. Is this an excuse to be childish in our faith, remaining immature? Why or why not? What's the difference between remaining childish and receiving the Kingdom like a child?
9. Tie all these verses together – how do they remind us of the gospel and help us delight in Jesus?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

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: Check in on each other. How ya' doin'? No really, how are you doing?