

UNSHAKEABLE: ASKING PRAYER

SMALL GROUP NOTES - 8/7/18

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SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:1-8

OVERVIEW

We all have needs. Things we need God to provide or want God to do. Yet we can struggle to bring these needs to the Lord, instead living with a mind-set that God isn't interested in our problems or that it's selfish for us to bring them to God when there are so many greater or more pressing needs in the world. Yet the teaching of scripture is that the Lord invites us to ask Him for things. He wants us to be an asking people, bringing our requests and supplications to him and believing that he will answer and provide.

And yet God doesn't always answers according to our schedule! Jesus tells a parable in Luke 18 with the express intention that we wouldn't lose heart when we ask God for things and don't see an immediate answer. The passage emphasises the point Paul Miller makes in his book *The Praying Life* that "learned desperation is the heart of the prayer."

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why do we 'lose heart' when we pray?
2. What is Jesus telling us about the nature of the Father and his heart towards us in this parable?
3. Are there things that we are continually asking God for? Share these in your group and pray for one another.
4. Jesus says that God will 'give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night.' How can we grow together in persistent petitionary prayer?

GO DEEPER

Read Philippians 4:4-7. What encouragements are there in these verses in relation to asking prayer?