

## **Resilience in Prayer**

### Growth Group Discussion

**Opening Questions** (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God's word.
- What is one thing you have been praying for, for a long time? Have you seen any answers to that prayer?

**1. READ Luke 18:1-8.**

- In v. 18, Luke gives away the point that Jesus is about to make in his parable. How would you state the point, in your own words?
- In the parable, Jesus speaks of a judge. How does this judge differ from God? How is he like God?
- What aspects of the widow's prayer is Jesus suggesting should characterize our prayer lives? On what basis?
- How would you say that your prayer life is going, in light of this teaching?

**2. On Sunday, Paul Coty called us to think about our resilience in prayer. Discuss the following questions, which he brought up in his sermon.**

- As in Jesus' delayed arrival at Lazarus' home, sometimes Jesus appears to be late in answering our prayers. What do you typically do when Jesus appears to be late?
- Paul said, "We become intimate in prayer because of who we pray to, who we pray for, and who we pray with."
  - What does your concept of God have to do with the intimacy you experience in prayer?
  - How do the things for which you pray impact your intimacy with God?
  - What does intimacy in prayer have to do with the people with whom you pray?
- Paul talked about the need to listen more in prayer. What does "listening prayer" look like for you? How do you hear God speak to you?
- With regard to the long-time prayer item that you shared above, what might have to happen for God to answer your prayer? Paul said that God often has to re-align us first, before answering our prayers. Is there any re-alignment that may need to happen in you?
- Do you ever assume the following? "If my prayer is not answered, I am not worthy; I must have done something wrong." What does the gospel have to say about these assumptions?
- Paul suggested that we often forget what God has already done, and our prayers are hindered as a result. Take some time to share about ways that God has answered your prayers in the past. How might this remembrance affect the way you pray this week?
- What role do you think that prayer will play in the outworking of our church's vision?

- Read Romans 8:31-32. On Sunday, Paul said, “Settle this in your mind: God hears you and commits to act. “ How does the Romans passage speak to this fact? How would this realization impact your prayers this week?

**PRAYER:**

- Take some time to share about items that are on your heart for prayer. As your group prays for one another, pause and listen in silence, to see if the Holy Spirit gives any kind of answer. If anything comes to mind for someone, allow time to share it during or after the prayer time.