

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Luke 18:1-17

LEADER'S STUDY

God hears prayer:

God actually wants to hear our prayers. Have you ever questioned that? If you have, you have something in common with many others. The truth is God not only wants to hear our prayers, He wants us to pray them. He did everything to make us His children and have relationship with Him. Prayer is a key part of that relationship. Through prayer we make requests but we also praise God for His blessing, His provision and His character. We share our heart with Him, we confess sin, we rejoice in forgiveness and we talk to God. We actually exercise faith in God through prayer when we trust Him with our lives, our relationships, our future...everything. He wants to be the one we turn to in everything.

As your read and study together ask yourself questions like: Who do I turn to first? Do I believe God hears my prayers? What are the things I rejoice in? How have I seen God work in my life? What does confession look like? Do I rejoice knowing I am forgiven? How is God calling me to trust Him through prayer? Through action? How is God changing my thinking? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: Eph chapter 1, 3 and 6, Matthew 6, 1 John 5:14-15, Heb 4:16

What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

How is God calling you to think and to live differently? How does this change your perspective today? How is God calling you to respond based on this scripture? Spend some time reading this whole chapter and meditating on it as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word.

PREPARING BEFORE GROUP

PURPOSE: Life transformation through the Holy Spirit. He uses scripture and prayer to renew our minds and transform our lives!

PRAY: Pray for the people in your groups by name. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you lead well as you meditate on key passages and seek to know God's heart.

PLAN: As you prepare for your group things to remember:

- Relationships are the primary way we glorify God. Healthy deep relationships that lead each other to know and follow Jesus are built on trust.
- If you haven't done it in your group before consider sharing your stories of how you came to faith in Jesus as your forgiver and leader
- Share stories of how God is working in your heart and how you or others are taking steps of growth
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As you pray together consider breaking into groups of 2 or 3 for your prayer time. Sometimes this leads to deeper discussion that doesn't happen in the bigger group - It is helpful to allow extra time for this

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Luke 18:1-17

This week try retelling the story in your own words with your bibles closed, then look to see what you missed, changed, moved or left out.

in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

READ AGAIN in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

(With larger portions of scripture, it's good for multiple people to read it aloud. Especially online, this helps people get used to using their voice)

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

STUDY QUESTIONS

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

What common themes are present throughout these verses?

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?

What seems to be the main point of these verses?

How does this scripture change your thinking?

Why did God bring me to this scripture today?

What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?

Is this how I think about prayer?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How are you going to obey this passage?

What is your “I will” statement?
(Encourage everyone to steer clear of “we” or “us” or “Christians” statements)

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?
(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears the it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?