

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 1, 2009

Passage: Luke 18:1-17

Memory Passage: Luke 18:14b

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 18:1-5.** What does the narrator say the purpose of this parable is? Who is the “they” in verse 1?
- (b) What are the two characteristics of the judge? So what would this person be like?
- (c) What is the main action of the widow in this situation? Why would the widow go to such a man? Would the widow have any hope in constantly bothering such a man?
- (d) *Think about it:* Why does the Judge finally relent? Are you persistent in prayer like the widow? Why or why not? What motivates the widow to be persistent? What motivates you to pray (or not to pray)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 18:1-5. Talk about the Widow and the Judge. What kind of man was the Judge? Why would the widow go to such a man for help? What motivates you to ask God for help? Why do you pray? Pray that God would give you a heart that desires to pray like the persistent widow.

### DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 18:6-18.** In verse 6, Jesus tells us to heed what the judge said. What did he say?
- (b) What comparison does Jesus give to the story of the judge and widow? What are the answers to the questions Jesus asks?
- (c) Why would she be able pray and not lose heart? What is the meaning of the end of verse 8? What is the connection between faith and prayer?
- (d) *Think about it:* How does our view of God affect our prayers? How does not praying persistently affect our own faith? Do you have a persistent prayer life? Why or why not? “Faith prompts prayer, while prayer strengthens faith.” What is your prayer life like? What needs to change?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 18:6-18. Talk about how Jesus explains the story. Who are we called to be like? Why? Does God answer prayers? What does persistent prayer show and encourage in our own lives? Pray that God would affirm to you His faithfulness and increase your faith in Him.

### DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 18:9-12.** Who did Jesus tell this parable to? What was Jesus purpose in telling this parable?
- (b) Where did the Pharisee stand in relation to others? What does he say about all of those who are around him? How many times does he say “I”? What does all of this say about his attitude?
- (c) What are some examples of how people do this in the Church? Give some examples. How do you tend to have this attitude toward other people?
- (d) *Think about it:* How can good things like being dedicated to bible study, bible memory, serving, and teaching lead to arrogance? Can knowledge or doing good things make us godly? Read Isaiah 6:1-7. What did Isaiah say about himself in the presence of God? Do we have any right to boast in knowledge we obtain or the good things we do?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 18:9-12. Talk about the Pharisee. What did he do? What did he say? Maybe you aren’t as bad as the Pharisee but how can you be like the Pharisee? Pray that the Lord would show you how you are like the Pharisee and confess to those who you might have treated with contempt.

### DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 18:13-14.** Where is the tax collector standing? What is his disposition like? How does this contrast to the Pharisees?
- (b) What does the tax collector ask for? How does he describe himself? What pronouncement does Jesus make about the tax collector and the Pharisee?
- (c) What does Jesus say about those who exalt themselves? What do you think this means? What do you think it means that the humble will be exalted (1Peter 5:5; James 4:6-10)?

(d) *Think about it:* Read James 4:6-10. James like Jesus warns his readers not to be proud. What happens when you begin to think that you are better or your way of doing something is better than others? How do you handle being right but not being proud? Who is it that has given everything that we have? Pray that the Lord would humble you under His gracious hand so that you might act righteous and not self-righteous.

(e) *Family:* Read Luke 18:13-14. Talk about the characteristics of the tax collector. Who are we supposed to be like in this passage? Why is it important to be humble? What does the tax collector realize that the Pharisee fails to realize? How do you respond to Jesus' words? Pray that the Lord would humble you before Him and men.

#### **DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Luke 18:15-17.** Why do you think the disciples tried to keep the people from bringing their infants to Jesus? Do the babies or children offer anything to Jesus?

(b) What does this say about the way Jesus thinks about children? Are children independent of their parents? How is Jesus saying we are to receive the kingdom of God?

(c) *Think about it:* What is your attitude toward God like? Do you trust in Him no matter the circumstance? Do you believe in Him and cling to Him like a child clings to their parent? Really think about this. Think about your past week. How did you and didn't you express childlike faith?

(d) *Family:* Read Luke 18:15-17. Talk about the disciples' reaction to the kids. What did they think about children? What did Jesus think about them? What was Jesus' point in comparing them to the disciples? Do you have faith in Christ? Have you simply trusted in Him and leaned upon Him for all your provision? Pray that you would trust in Him with faith like a child.

#### **DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(f) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Luke 18:1-17. What did you get out of the parable of the unjust judge? Do you really believe that God answer's your prayers? How does that play out? What about the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector, do you trust in your own goodness or achievements? Does God's presence and glory bring you to your knees like Isaiah? Do you have faith like a child? Talk with your spouse or a friend about what the Lord might be convicting you of. Who knows, God might be wanting to use you to be a light to someone else.

**DATE:** February 1, 2009

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### ***Faithful Prayer***

*“For to such belongs the kingdom of heaven”*