



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Series Theme: Stories of Jesus
Text for the Week: Luke 18:1-8
Story for the Week: The Widow and Unjust Judge
Message for the Week: A Persistent Community

Week Ten
Sunday, August 21

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Do you remember asking for something when you were a child and not receiving it? What was it?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Luke 18:1-8](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What keeps you from praying more?

Have you ever felt God's silence to your prayers? What was this like? How did you reckon with this?

Have you ever given up a certain prayer? Given up praying for a season? Or given up on prayer totally? Why?

When have you seen God bring about justice to people who cried out to him day and night?

What does faithfulness in prayer look like? What unanswered prayer can you resume praying today?

How do you pray for God's kingdom to come? What does it mean to pray for God's kingdom to come? What prompts you to pray for God's kingdom to come?

What is the point of continually and persistently praying the same prayer like the widow in the parable?

"Try It!"

This week in your prayers, adopt the posture of the widow in Jesus' parable. Choose one or two things to pray about again and again and again. Keep coming before God with your plea. Keep bothering God with your prayers.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, thank you for not being like the unjust judge. Thank you for being a Father who loves to give good things to his children. Thank you that we are not like the lonely widow who needs to pester the judge for justice. Thank you for embracing us as sons and daughters and welcoming us into your family because of Jesus. Father, we confess that do not pray as we ought. Encourage us to spend more time acknowledging who you are, make us increasingly aware of your Kingdom's presence, and equip us for active participation in your work. In the name of Jesus our Teacher and Rabbi, Amen.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Blessing Students and Teachers

During the month of August, you are encouraged to bless the students and teachers in your community. What students and teachers live in your community? What public and private schools (elementary, middle, high school, college/university, home school) are in your community? How could you bless and encourage them as they begin a new school year?