

God is for me

God is on our side when life seems unjust

Small Group Notes

Luke 18:1-8 (niv)

In **Luke 18**, we find two parables that deal with the subject of prayer...

Evidently the persistence in prayer was very important to Jesus.

Are we persistent in our prayers? Have we lost heart and don't pray as we ought?

... Understanding the Parable

1. The character of the Judge.

Luke 18:2 (niv)

2. The distress of the widow.

Luke 18:3 (niv)

3. The difficulty she faced.

Luke 18:4a (niv) *For some time he refused...*

4. At last the Judge notices her complaint.

Luke 18:4b-5 (niv)

... Applying the Parable

1. God will listen to His people

The Widow

vs's

God's People

A stranger

His elect - **1 Peter 2:9-10** (niv)

Only one

We are many

At a distance

We can come boldly - **Hebrews 4:15-16** (niv)

An unjust judge

A righteous Father

On her own

God is for us - **Romans 8:31-32** (niv)

Pleads her own case

Christ our Advocate - **Romans 8:34** (niv)

No assurance of an answer

Promised it will be given - **Luke 18:8a** (niv)

Access limited

Access unlimited (*can pray to God anytime*)

Asking provoked judge

Asking delights God

2. God will stand with His people.

Luke 18:7b (niv)

... So, why don't people pray?

Here are some suggested reasons for the prayerlessness of God's people.

1. **Disobedience to God.**
2. **Lack of Confidence.**
3. **Wrong priorities.**

The state of our "prayer life" reveals the true condition of our faith!

... Discussion

- Take the time to share specific instances of answered prayer that has required persistence.
- In your prayer life do you relate more to the widow's experience (*see above chart*) or that of God's people? Discuss why this is the case for you. How does this affect the way you approach God?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18
How can we practically outwork this verse? What is required?
- The widow came to the judge to get justice.
What is a just cause? (*give examples from your own experience*)
- What stops you from praying? Is it disobedience, a lack of confidence, wrong priorities or other reason?
- Finish off your discussion with a time of prayer for each others needs.