

MODGNIEK

Week 5 Discussion Guide



Icebreaker

What is something or who is someone you love so much that you naturally want other people to experience it too?

Read

Luke 18:1-17 (Optional: Have your group read the passage in two different versions. Then have the group retell the passage in their own words.)

Discuss

The message from Jesus is pray continually and don't lose heart. The woman in this story doesn't have an impressive position, a perfect prayer, or a lot of power. She simply keeps showing up and asking for what she needs. That might feel different from the way we sometimes think prayer is supposed to work. We can feel like we need the right words, the right posture, or some kind of spiritual maturity before we can approach God. But Jesus seems to be saying something much simpler: Come. Ask. Keep coming. Don't give up. God isn't impressed by how polished our prayers sound. He wants our hearts.

- **What is one thing that keeps you persisting in prayer? What are practical things you can do to fight against losing heart?**
- **Why do you think we sometimes feel like we need to have the "right" words when we pray?**
- **What would change about your prayer life if you really believed God wanted you to come to Him exactly as you are?**

Jesus tells a story about two very different people praying in the temple. One is confident in how good he looks, while the other knows he needs mercy. Jesus makes it clear that the humble, honest prayer is the one that matters. As followers of Jesus, we can sometimes forget that people don't have to have it all together before they belong. Jesus invites real people with real struggles into His Kingdom.

- **Have you ever felt like you needed to "clean yourself up" before coming to God? Where do you think that feeling comes from?**
- **What could we do differently to help people feel safe enough to be honest about where they really are?**
- **Think about the people you regularly interact with at work, in your neighborhood, with your family, or socially. Who might need an invitation from you right now?**

The disciples saw the children as a distraction, but Jesus saw them as people worth making room for. He told the disciples not to stop them from coming. As followers of Jesus, we aren't called to decide who is worthy of an invitation. We're called to remove barriers and help people come to Jesus. Sometimes the most important thing we can do is simply invite someone to come with us.

- **What barriers do you think people experience that keep them from coming to Jesus or church?**
- **Why do you think inviting someone can feel so uncomfortable or intimidating?**

Application

This week, invite someone in.

- **Think of one person who may feel far from God or like they don't belong and pray for them.**
- **What is one step that you can take this week to invite them to sit with you at church?**

Prayer

Spend time in prayer asking God to show you who He is inviting you to reach out to, and give you the courage to take the first step.