



Dig Deeper @Home – “Tough Questions”

Complement to sermon -10/7/2018 – “Why Doesn’t God Answer Every Prayer?”

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Where do you lose patience waiting?
2. What is one thing you are praying for that God has not yet answered?

MEMORIZE – 1st Peter 3:15

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

READ – Luke 18:1-8

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. As you read this parable, what was the plight of widows in the time of Jesus? How were they to be treated? (Exodus 22:22; Isaiah 1:17; James 1:27)
4. What method did this woman use as she approached the judge? How is God like and unlike the judge?
5. Read verse 8 and explain what Jesus might mean when he said, “when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”
6. Looking back, what prayers have you prayed that you are glad God didn’t answer with a yes? With the benefit of hindsight, how did the Lord save you, protect you, provide for you, or grow you up by saying no?

Read Luke 18:1-8 again and summarize in your own words:

Experiential: Staring Contest

Two people will sit across from one another. A third person will count down from three (3) and at that point the contest will begin. Contestants must stare at their opponent in the eyes until the third person (judge) rules that the game is over.

The game will be over when: One person giggles or laughs; One person looks away from their opponent; or One person blinks twice. Each person will be allowed one blink. If someone blinks, the judge will call a fault, and the game will continue. If at any point that same person blinks again, he or she loses and the game is over.

Talk about how hard it was to stay focused on the other person. How does this relate to our need to focus on God and trust him? What can we do to continue to keep our eyes on God in prayer?

Testimony Time

Share an example of how you have seen God at work in answering prayer or in giving you grace to walk in life trusting God.

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Blessed Be Your Name - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTpTQ4kBLxA>

This song by Matt Redman speaks to our need to trust in God even when we face dark times in our lives. *"Blessed Be Your name when I'm found in the desert place though I walk through the wilderness Blessed Be Your name."*

Spirit of God Descend upon my heart – Mennonite Hymnal #217

The fourth verse, the hymn writer wants "to feel that [God] is always nigh." His faith is one of total surrender that allows him to bear "the struggles of the soul" and to stifle the "rising doubt" and "rebel sigh." The verse concludes with a plea for "patience" when experiencing "unanswered prayer."

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and how this group can join you in prayer.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Gracious God, you are not like the unjust Judge. You do not answer us to get rid of us; You invite us to "approach the throne of grace with confidence," so that we may receive mercy and grace to help us in our time of need. You are full of righteousness and compassion, always willing to listen to our prayers. We place our confidence not in the justice of our lives but in the justice of our righteous Judge. Amen.