

The Power of Persistent Prayer

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A SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE BASED ON THE SERMON BY PASTOR MIREK HUFTON

1. SERMON RECAP

Pastor Mirek Hufton preached from Luke 18:1-8, drawing on the parable of the persistent widow to show that God calls every believer to pray without ceasing and without losing heart. He challenged the group to understand that persistence in prayer is not a sign of doubt but of faith, and that the moment we stop pressing in is often the moment we miss the breakthrough God was already preparing. Using examples from scripture and from his own life, he reminded us that God is not the unjust judge but a loving Father who is actively working on our behalf every time we cry out to Him.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:1

"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men ought always to pray and not to lose heart."

3. ICE BREAKER

What is one area of life where you have found it genuinely difficult to stay persistent, whether in prayer, a personal goal, or a relationship, and what kept pulling you away from it?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Mirek pointed out that Jesus told this parable specifically because He knew His followers would be tempted to lose heart. Why do you think discouragement is such a common experience in the prayer lives of ordinary believers, and what tends to trigger it most in your own life?
2. He drew a sharp contrast between the unjust judge, who only responded to the widow out of annoyance, and God, who hears His people out of love and justice. How does truly believing in the character of God as a loving Father change the way a person approaches persistent prayer? Does that belief come easily to you, or does it take effort?
3. Pastor Mirek shared the story of Jacob wrestling through the night and refusing to let go until he received a

blessing, and he noted that God weakened Jacob physically so that Jacob could no longer rely on his own strength. What does that moment reveal about the connection between humility and effective prayer? Can you think of a time when your own self-sufficiency got in the way of your prayer life?

4. He referenced Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," and connected it to 2 Corinthians 3:5, where Paul says his sufficiency is from God. What does it look like in practical, everyday life to approach God from a posture of genuine dependence rather than going to Him only as a last resort?

5. Pastor Mirek described several seasons of persistent prayer in his own life, including a financially desperate season in the church when he committed to morning and evening prayer meetings for six weeks before the breakthrough came. He said that during that time the enemy was loudly telling him it was over, yet he kept pressing in. How do you distinguish in your own experience between a God-given season of waiting and a temptation to simply give up?

6. He closed by walking through the progression in Luke 11:9, ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking, describing each as a deeper level of pressing into God. As a group, discuss what moving from asking to seeking to knocking might look like in a specific situation someone in the group is currently facing.

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

Identify one specific need or situation that has been on your heart for some time, something you may have grown quiet or discouraged about. This week, commit to bringing that single request to God every day for seven days without backing down, and write it down somewhere visible as a daily reminder. At the next group meeting, be ready to share what shifted, even if only in your own perspective, over those seven days.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that each person in the group would receive a fresh resolve to return to persistent, fervent prayer in the specific area where they have been most tempted to give up.
 - Pray for a genuine spirit of humility across the group, that each member would move away from self-sufficiency and toward the dependence on God that Pastor Mirek described through the example of Jacob at the Brook Jabbok.
 - Pray for breakthroughs that group members have been standing in faith for over a long period of time, asking God to strengthen their faith to hold on until the answer arrives.
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7. MEMORY VERSE

James 5:16b

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."