

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, Feb. 21st 2016

The Gospel in Story | The Friend (Lk 11:1-13)

1. What likely is the reason that particular disciple asked Jesus to teach them all how to pray? Why is prayer such a challenging discipline? What have you always considered its purpose?
2. What reason does Jesus give for the friend getting out of bed to greet his friend in the middle of the night? In other words, God honors persistence. Why would this be?
3. The metaphor used to describe God in this passage is a loving father who gives good gifts to his children who ask. Do you resonate with this picture or has your experience fallen short for some reason? Have you asked often? What have you asked for?
4. What does Jesus say God the Father gives freely, in abundance?
5. Doug said that praying for daily bread, forgiveness and the ability to forgive, are important, but not the focus of Jesus' teaching. He said we are to pray for God's kingdom to come because the emphasis is outward, not inward. This is challenging to be sure, but how does one, according to Jesus, focus outward and not inward?
6. Have you ever prayed for the Holy Spirit and then witnessed God working in your life? If so how?
7. Why is it so daunting to think of reaching out to others about Jesus?
8. Even as you reflect on these verses, can you think one person in your life that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, you could and should reach out to?
9. This is truly an insightful passage on asking through prayer with the right motives...for those with children, how can we teach our children to pray? What should be the main (not only) focus of prayers? What should our children ask for?