

## Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of August 22, 2021

### Jesus Stories: Parables For People Like Us

#### A Wearisome Widow, Luke 18:1-8

Pastor Temple- 8:30 & 10:30 Traditional, Pastor Conway- 10:30 Contemporary Service

### Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events or faith experiences since you last met?
  
- Are there joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **Opening Discussion Question-** Have you ever wanted something so bad you kept after it with disciplined repeated actions over time? How did things go? Did it work out as you wanted or differently?

### Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the scriptures from this week's sermon message and then discuss the questions which follow as time allows. There are more questions than you will have time for, so it is ok to be selective.

#### Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. <sup>2</sup> He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' <sup>4</sup> "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself,

**'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'" <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"**

1. If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
2. What qualities of the widow in this parable inspires you in your life of prayer?
3. Do you think prayer is more about a relationship with God or about asking God to intervene in life and world situations or something else?

4. Pastor Temple mentioned that prayer can affect things in ways we can never fully know or recognize and that “with God, even when nothing is happening, something is happening.” Do you agree that prayer has had an impact on world events such as the end of apartheid, the crumbling of the Berlin Wall and peace between protestants and Catholics in Ireland? Why or why not?
5. Pastor Conway suggested that the prayer pattern of desperate widows is the model Jesus presents to his disciples (and to us) to follow until his second coming (whenever that would be). How has desperation helped you draw closer to God at times? How are we to keep a vital prayer life and relationship with God even when we are not in times of desperation?

### **Other Related Reading (10 min)**

1. Would a volunteer please read aloud the word of the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:12, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.”
2. How do you see this description of Christian living evident in the life of the widow in the parable above?
3. Which of the three phrases speak most to you right now?

### **Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)**

1. As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
2. What are the prayer patterns in our lives currently?
3. How has the messages and discussion today affected our intentions to regularly appeal to a higher authority in a life of prayer? What times or places of prayer do you have mind?
4. What areas of prayer needs beyond our own immediate circles shall we be in prayer for this week?

### **Witness and Closing (10 minutes)**

- What persons who do not appear to be connected to a church or have Christian faith would you like to lift up in prayer with the group?
  
- A volunteer may conclude by leading the group in prayer about the joys and concerns shared earlier in the meeting