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Keep on Praying Luke 11:1-13; 18:1-8

Billy Graham has said “Heaven is full of answers to prayers for which no one ever bothered to ask.”

GROUP DISCUSSION. What has been your most amazing answer to prayer?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. Corrie ten Boom once asked, “Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?” How would you have answered her?

Although most Christians believe in praying about important decisions, they often make their decisions without prayer. There are many reasons for this: They question whether the particular decision they are facing requires prayer. They do not have time to pray because a decision is needed immediately. They do not know what to ask. They don’t really believe that God will give them an answer. Even Jesus’ closet disciples needed instruction in prayer. *Read Luke 11:1-13.*

1. What one idea about prayer stands out to you the most in these verses?

2. What kinds of things does Jesus tell us we should pray for in verses 2-4?

3. Which of these has been most prominent and most lacking in your own prayer life?

4. How would you feel about a friend who would be so persistent in bothering you in the middle of the night (vv. 5-8)?

5. How would you characterize the awakened neighbor?

6. How does the awakened neighbor differ from God?

7. In what ways are we to be like the persistent neighbor?

8. How are we to practice asking, seeking and knocking?

9. What assurance do we have that God will give us good gifts (vv.11-13)?

10. *Read Luke 18:1-8.* Why would Jesus compare God to an unjust Judge?

How does this comparison help Jesus to make his point?

11. When in your prayer life have you felt like the widow in this parable?

How do you think that God would prefer that you pray?

12. How do the lessons of these parables apply to your prayers concerning your decisions?

Thank God for his past answers to your prayers and ask again for his guidance in the decisions you face.

Now or Later

“Reading a book about prayer, listening to lectures and talking about it is very good, but it won’t teach you to pray. You get nothing without exercise, without practice. I might listen for a year to a professor of music playing the most beautiful music, but that won’t teach me to play an instrument” (Andrew Murray, “The Spiritual Life,” *Christianity Today* 34, no.2).

Spend time in prayer on your own, with a prayer partner or with a small group.