



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

The Storyteller / Week 3

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

When it comes to prayer, don't quit because it's quiet.

SCRIPTURE

Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need." (Luke 11:5-8 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see that choosing to pray consistently can grow their faith regardless of the outcome.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders, up to this point most students only think about prayer as transactional—something they do in order to get something they want. As they grow in their faith, help them see how consistent prayer can grow their faith regardless of the outcome.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's the longest you've waited in a line that ultimately wasn't worth it? What's the longest you've waited in a line that was worth it?
2. In general, why can the concept of prayer be so difficult to understand?
3. What are the reasons you give up praying when you've waited a long time for something?
4. Why do you think that sometimes we only go to God in prayer for certain things?
5. Why is it important to your own faith to keep returning to God in prayer?
6. What did you get out of the story Jesus told about the neighbor?
7. How would being sure that God listens to your prayers change what you consistently pray about?
8. **Don't miss this:** What are some ways that praying consistently can grow your faith, regardless of the outcome?

TRY THIS

Leaders, starting this week, record your students' prayer requests. Throughout the next few weeks, be sure to follow up specifically on those. Or, you can challenge your students to write down their prayers. It can build your faith to look back at prayers and see that God did show up, just maybe not in the way you thought He would.