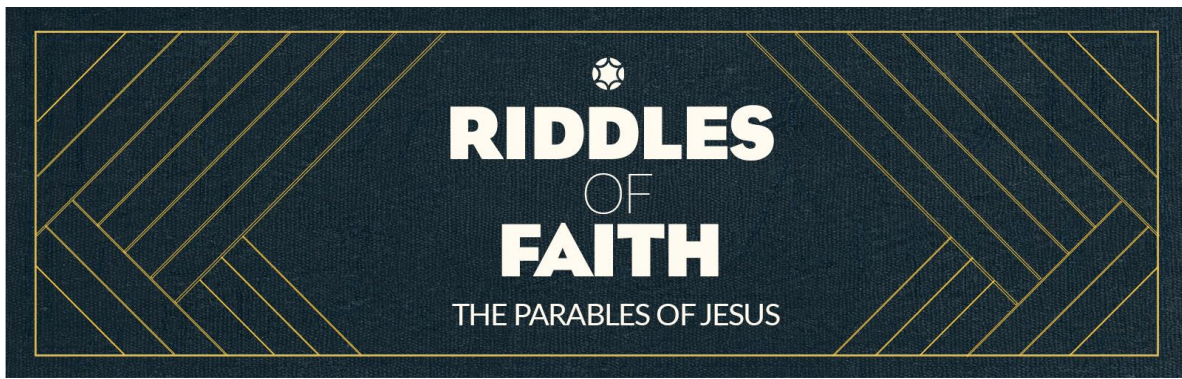




Group Guide

Week Six // Is Anybody Home??

Scripture Focus

Luke 18:1–8

Big Idea

Jesus invites us to pray with persistence and confidence. God is a loving God who hears his people and can be trusted even when his answers seem delayed.

Read Together

Read Luke 18:1–8 aloud. As you read, notice what keeps the widow coming back to the judge and how Jesus contrasts the unjust judge with God.

Setting the Scene

Luke tells us the purpose of this parable before Jesus even begins: Jesus told it to his disciples “to show them that they should always pray and not give up.” Jesus introduces two very different people. The first is a judge who neither fears God nor cares what people think. The second is a widow seeking justice against an adversary. In the ancient world, widows could be especially vulnerable because they often lacked the social standing, financial resources, and influence available to others. This widow appears to have little power except for her willingness to keep showing up. The judge initially refuses to help her, but she continues returning with the same request: “Grant me justice against my adversary. Eventually, the judge gives in because of her persistence.

Digging Deeper

Jesus knows his followers will experience seasons when they pray and nothing appears to happen. Circumstances may remain unchanged and God may even

seem silent. Jesus' encouragement is to keep praying and don't give up. Prayer keeps us turning toward God when circumstances tempt us to turn away. Jesus ends the parable with a surprising question: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" The story that begins as a lesson about prayer ends as a question about faith. Will we continue trusting God when answers don't come according to our timetable? Will we keep praying when we cannot yet see what God is doing? Persistent prayer is ultimately persistent trust.

Group Discussion

Getting Started

- What stood out most to you from the sermon?
- Have you ever prayed for something for a long time without seeing the answer you hoped for? What was that experience like?

Digging Into Scripture

- Why do you think Luke tells us the purpose of the parable before Jesus tells the story?
- What stands out to you about the widow's response when the judge initially refuses to help?
- How is God different from the unjust judge?

Personal Reflection

- What usually happens to your prayer life when God seems silent or an answer is delayed?
- How can persistent prayer deepen our trust in God even when our circumstances do not immediately change?

Looking Forward

- What is one prayer you need to begin praying again or continue praying faithfully?
- What would it look like for you to trust God's character while you wait for his answer?

Individual Application

This week, identify one prayer you don't want to give up on. Write it somewhere you will see it regularly. Bring the same request honestly before God each day and as you pray, ask yourself:

- What do I know about God's character even when I don't understand his timing?
- How might God be shaping me as I wait?

Consider memorizing:

Luke 18:1

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."

Closing Prayer

God, thank you that you hear us when we pray. Forgive us for the times we assume your silence means you are absent or that your delay means you do not care. Give us faith to keep coming to you with our needs, fears, hopes, and questions. Help us trust your character when we do not understand your timing. Teach us to pray and not give up. In Jesus' name, amen.