



March 21st Discussion Guide

LENT SERIES: PARABLE OF THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

This is a 5 week study called **Stories to live by: A Lent series on the Parables of Jesus**. Content for this discussion guide is based on the sermon, so participation in weekly worship will enhance the conversation on this topic. If you want to watch the sermon it can be viewed at [Sermons Archive - Good Shepherd Church Naperville](#)

Prayer

Open your group in prayer.

Icebreaker (10 min)

1. Share how your Easter plans will look different from last year's celebration.
2. How will you stay in God's Word over the next few week's until the next study begins?

Discussion (30 min)

1. Read Luke 18:1-8, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.
 - a. What was Jesus teaching in the parable of the persistent widow?
 - b. How was the judge the opposite of God? How do you relate to the persistent widow?
 - c. What do you do to work prayer into your daily life?
2. Discuss the benefits of persistent prayer:
 - a. Read Psalm 25:15, 1 Chronicles 16:11. How do these verses show the benefit of prayer? What are some negative effects if God were to answer YES to everyone's prayers?
 - b. Read Lamentations 3:25, Isaiah 30:18, 1 Cor. 6:11. What benefits do we receive from waiting on God through prayer? What has this looked like in your life?
 - c. Read Psalm 37:4, Zec. 13:9. What is the difference between a "whim" and a "desire"? How can persistent prayer test your desires compared to God's desires for you?
 - d. Read Psalm 84:11, Matt. 6:25, 33, 34. How does what we worry about highlight our priorities? What are supposed to do instead of worry? What does God promise in these verses? How is waiting in prayer testing your priorities?
 - e. Read 2 Chronicles 32:31b. Why did God leave Hezekiah on his own? How can unanswered prayer mature us? What is the difference between a "no" and a "not yet"?
 - f. Read Jer. 29:11, Gal 6:9. How does waiting on God test our faith? What does God promise in these verses?
3. Discuss Rick Warren's 4 answers to prayer: NO, GROW, SLOW, GO
4. **Application questions:**
 - a. What answer to prayer are you being persistent about this week?
 - b. What have you learned that will help you adapt your prayer life going forward?



Closing Prayer

The People's Prayer this week in Lent is: “Lord, let me seek justice so there will be peace.” LORD, thank you for hearing our cries for help and working all things for our good and Your glory!

