

# Powerful prayers

**Week 5: March 29 – April 4**

**NOTE:** This curriculum has been modified to help with the flow of our online video call meetings. The most important elements of a discipleship meeting are present: **share life, share God's Word, share questions & discussion, and share prayer.**

## Share Life:

**Question:** All of us are personally being impacted by COVID-19 or have loved ones who are personally being impacted by COVID-19. How are you being impacted right now?

**Vision:** Our group is a discipleship group. That means that it is our goal that every person in this group would be a disciple of Jesus. A disciple of Jesus is someone who is 1) following Jesus, 2) is being changed by Jesus, and 3) is on mission with Jesus. We all are broken people. We need God and others to help us in our walk with Jesus.

## Share God's Word (story):

Background: A parable is a story that is very unique. They are stories that use a physical reality to help us understand a spiritual reality. Jesus often taught in parables. It is important that we understand that parables have one big point. We should not read into all the details of a parable as though there are many hidden truths in a parable. That is not their intention. A parable is like a good joke: it has one big punchline that evokes an emotional response. A joke evokes laughter. The emotional response of a parable varies based on the intent of the parable.

This week, we are going to look at two parables that encourage us to “always pray and not lose heart.” As you hear the parables, remember that they represent a spiritual reality. Remember that they have one big point. Most importantly, remember who told these parables: Jesus Himself. Let's look at these parables about being persistent in prayer. This is where our stories begin...

**Tell the stories from Luke 11:5-10 AND Luke 18:1-8**  
**Read the stories from Luke 11:5-10 AND Luke 18:1-8.**

## Share Questions & Discussion:

1. What stands out to you in these stories and why?
2. What can you learn about man, or what can you learn about God in these stories?
3. How can you connect something you are feeling to a truth we just discussed?

## Share in Prayer

In addition to praying for any needs in your group, spend time praying this week that God would add someone new to your small group that you can minister to together.

**Recruit a storyteller for next week!!**

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## Week 5: Jesus the Great Administrator

One of the great characteristics of Jesus as an administrator was that He gave meaningful assignments to those who were on His team. He got His disciples out of the seats and into the game. Here are a few examples:

**Luke 10:1** – After this the Lord appointed 72 others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

**Mark 6:37-44** – But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” and they said to him, “Shall we go and buy 200 denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out they said, “Five, and two fish.” Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. So, they sat down in groups, by hundreds and fifties. And taking the five loaves and two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people and he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

**Jesus was a humble leader. He wanted His disciples to participate in blessing the 5000. As a result, they were able to receive the blessing of helping other people.**

Sometimes, as a leader, we can think that it is better to do everything ourselves. Maybe it is easier to lead discussion or tell the story every week. But giving assignments to others that allows them to participate in leading others is empowering. Our ultimate goal is to make disciples who are fully equipped to make disciples. We cannot do that unless we get them in the game!

**Do you have some disciples on your team who need to take the next step in getting equipped to lead a small group? Contact Pastor Brandon Werner about our upcoming Next Gen Small Group Leader Training. There is an interest meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 5 at 9:00am via Skype. Help us connect the next generation of leaders to this training.**