

## Argyle LifeGroup Study Guide, Luke, part 59, June 28, 2020

1. Read Luke 18:1-8

2. Read Luke 18:1. Jesus is teaching about something that seems simple enough but it is often misunderstood. Prayer. Jesus said, "to pray always and not \_\_\_\_\_."

3. Prayer is not for us to make God do what we \_\_\_\_\_. God is not our magic Genie in a bottle. It is through prayer that we discover God's best for our life. In prayer we surrender our plans and our desires to Him.

4. So when should we pray? I'm glad you asked. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Jesus is teaching us to make prayer a natural habit, as natural to us as breathing air. It's so natural you don't even have to think about it.

5. Read Luke 18:2. Not only does he not have any reverence for God, he doesn't respect anybody else either.

6. Read Luke 18:3. Luke had more to say about widows than all of the other gospel writers combined. All through the scriptures, widows are to be treated with justice and mercy.

7. Read Luke 18:4-5. To understand this parable we first must understand it is a story of contrasts. Jesus was not teaching that we should pray or approach God like this widow approached the judge. Jesus is saying that if a poor widow can get what she deserved from a bad judge, then as God's children how much more can we receive what we need from our loving Heavenly Father? We are not like the widow. In fact, we are the opposite.

8. The judge is also a contrast with God the Father. If you don't understand that, you could be led to believe that God can be bribed into doing whatever you want. Our God is nothing like this judge. The only reason the judge helped the widow was to get her off of his back. God answers our prayers for His glory and for our good.

9. Read Matthew 6:9. Did He mean that every time you pray you should quote this word for word? No. But Jesus did mean that every time you pray you should include these elements.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done;  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.