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# LET'S PRAY HARD

LUKE 18:1-8

## WHY?

God is **totally unlike** the crooked judge.

**People matter to God.**

I am **totally unlike** the poor, powerless, connectionless widow.

**I am a child of God.**

## HOW?

Have a **Plan**

Make **Specific Requests**

Use **the Word of God**

### Getting Started:

What have you "gone hard after" in your life (a job, success in your job, an athletic endeavor, learning an instrument, grades, a relationship, etc.) What did "going hard" involve?

### Digging In:

Read aloud Lk 18:1-8. Who was Jesus directing the parable? What was the woman's problem? How is God like and unlike the crooked judge? How are believers like and unlike the widow? As a group, create a one-to-two sentence summary of the message of this parable. How do these verses (Mt 7:7; Ac 2:42; Col 4:12; Ro 15:30; Eph 6:17-18) speak to the idea of praying hard? What do these verses (Mt 7:9-10; 21:22; Mk 11:24; Jn 14:13; 15:7, 16; 16:23f; Ja 1:5f) say about expecting God to answer our prayers?

### Living It Out:

How would you describe your prayer tendencies: a) cry out to God day and night b) struggle with what to say c) fall asleep d) pray hard e) give up easily f) very intentional g) other Do you have a long term prayer request you have seen God answer? What was it? What is an urgent "plea" to God right now you have? How can your small group support you and join you in that prayer? Do you have an unanswered request you have given up on? Do you think that God might want you to begin praying again for that request? Will you? How will you?

## LET'S PRAY

**...God will exalt his name in the world.**

*"Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."* (Matthew 6:9)

**...God will extend his kingdom in the world.**

*"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."* (Matthew 6:10)

**...the gospel would spread and be respected.**

*"...brothers, pray....that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored,"* (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

**...for the fullness of the Holy Spirit.**

*"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"* (Luke 11:13; cf. Ephesians 3:19)

**...God will vindicate his people in their cause.**

*"...will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him...?"* (Luke 18:7)

**...God will save unbelievers.**

*"...my heart's desire and prayer to God...is that they may be saved."* (Romans 10:1)

**...God will direct the use of the Word.**

*"Take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication."*

(Ephesians 6:17-18)

**...for boldness in proclamation.**

*"Praying...that words may be given to me in boldly [proclaiming]...the gospel."* (Ephesians 6:18-19)

**...for the healing of those who are sick.**

*"Let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up."* (James 5:14-15)

**...God will meet the needs of his children.**

*"Give us this day our daily bread."* (Matthew 6:11)

**...for wisdom in trials.**

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."* (James 1:5)

**...God will send out harvesters.**

*"Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* (Matthew 9:38)

**...for the success of other missionaries.**

*"I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ...to strive together with me in your prayers to God...that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable..."* (Romans 15:30-31)

**...for unity and love in the body.**

*"I [ask] for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."* (John 17:20-21)

**...for the encouragement of togetherness.**

*"We pray most earnestly...that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith."* (1 Thessalonians 3:10)

**...for a mind of wise discernment.**

*"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless..."* (Philippians 1:9-10)

**...for a knowledge of his will.**

*"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding."* (Colossians 1:9)

**...to know God better.**

*"[We have not ceased to pray for you to be] increasing in the knowledge of God."* (Colossians 1:10)

**...for power to comprehend the love of Christ.**

*"I bow my knees before the Father...[that you] may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ..."* (Ephesians 3:14, 18-19)

**...for a deeper sense of assured hope.**

*"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers...that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints."* (Ephesians 1:16, 18)

**...for strength and endurance.**

*"[We have not ceased to pray for you to be] strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy."* (Colossians 1:11)

**...that your faith will not fail.**

*"I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren."* (Luke 22:32)

**...for greater faith.**

*"Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, 'I believe; help my unbelief!'"* (Mark 9:24; cf. Ephesians 3:17)

**...that you might not fall into temptation.**

*"Lead us not into temptation."* (Matthew 6:13)

**...that you would do good works.**

*"[We have not ceased to pray for you that you] walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work."* (Colossians 1:10)

**...for the forgiveness of your sins.**

*"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."* (Matthew 6:12)

**...for protection from the evil one.**

*"Deliver us from evil."* (Matthew 6:13)