

CHANGE YOUR STORY

Discussion Notes

THE NUISANCE NEIGHBOUR

Kate started by explaining that if we're not happy with our prayer life we need to change our behaviour to see different results.

- How would you describe your prayer life in one word?

Read Luke 11:5-13 together.

- What are your initial thoughts on this passage?
- Does it immediately make sense? What is the impression we get of God at first reading of this passage?

Kate explained some of the context of the passage that can help us understand the story Jesus is telling. For example, the neighbour would have been expected to provide food for his friend who had travelled to stay with him - in fact it would have been incredible shameful if he didn't show hospitality, so he really is desperate for help. Also, the traveller himself would have been relying on the neighbour for food as he would probably have not eaten on his journey and is in need of help from his friend before he carries on.

- Kate explained that understanding this context helps us see how desperate the neighbour was and how persistent and forceful he had to be in his request. What does this teach us about our prayers?
- Does your prayer life look like the neighbour asking for food - is it proactive and persistent? How can we make our prayer life more proactive?

Luke 9 says "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" - we can grow in prayer by asking, seeking and knocking.

ASK

- Kate said it is helpful for our 'asks' to be specific. Why would this be helpful?
- Have you got examples of when you have prayed with a specific 'ask' and seen a specific answer?

SEEK

- What is the difference between asking and seeking? What makes it more proactive?
- Are there situations you're facing where you need to actively seek God for something?

KNOCK

- The word for 'knock' is actually used to describe the action of a battering ram in a warfare situation. What does this tell us about prayer?
- Kate explained that we have to pray with this persistence because there are forces of evil that oppose our prayers - when we pray we engage in spiritual warfare. Have you experienced this?
- How can we get better at engaging in this type of prayer?

It is important that prayer is something we engage in privately but also in the context of community. How can you as a Hub get better at praying together and supporting each other in prayer?

Please ask your Hub group to save the evening of the Saturday 11th January in their diary for a significant evening of prayer and worship as a church.