

Tales of the UNEXPECTED

2. Prayer, Unexpected | Discussion Notes

Read Luke 18:1-8 together and then watch the Summary Video.

- What's your experience of prayer? What do you find difficult and what are the things that stop you from praying? What causes you to give up?
- Philip talked about people having an over-simplified view of prayer - that it's all about what God wants or doesn't want, and there are no other factors. Can you identify with this? Why do you think so much of prayer is a mystery to us? Why don't we get more explanations?
- In the parable the widow is the most significant person in the story, even though she has the least power in her society. Does it encourage you to think that persistent prayer makes you the most significant person in the story?
- What do you think of Philip's twist to the famous saying, that we: Work as if it all depends on God and Pray as if it all depends on us? How does this make you feel? Does it motivate you at all? What would your prayer life look like if you took this to heart?
- What challenging situations in your life could you pray persistently about?
- Which of your unchurched friends or colleagues could you pray for in the next month as we run up to the Carol Service? Go round the group and give your answer.

BIG IDEA: Prayer makes you the most significant person in the story. Praying persistently, like it all depends on you, and refusing to take no for an answer, changes the world.

Ask if there is anyone in the group who has a particular situation to pray into. It could be a physical need for healing, a challenging financial situation, a family emergency. Get them into the middle and pray for them as a group.

Pair up and share the names of the people that you are committing yourself to praying for to find faith. Pray for them and pray for each other for boldness, wisdom and opportunities to share faith with them and give them an invitation. Ask God to give you a renewed vision and excitement for prayer and to help you develop consistent habits of persistent prayer.