

CAC LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

By This Time Next Year: Prayer – January 11, 2026

Big Idea: Pray always and do not be discouraged

Ice Breaker: Share about a time you were especially persistent about something you wanted, and it paid off

Key Points

Take a few minutes to review the key points from this week's sermon.

- Jesus wants us to always pray and not be discouraged
- The way we practice prayer reveals a lot about our perception of God
- We are promised God will give us justice
- Certain things will only happen if we persistently pray for them
- The ultimate goal of prayer is not a change in our circumstances, but a change in us

Discussion Questions

Based on the sermon, discuss the questions below.

- What was your biggest takeaway? What stuck out the most or moved you on a personal level?
- Did anything bother you? What questions did you have?

Making it Personal

Review with your group the impact this week's sermon made on you personally.

- How would you describe your prayer life lately, using 1 word?
- What are some things that have helped you to pray persistently?
- Share some examples of things you have prayed for that took a long time to be answered.
- Who in your life has been an example of someone who models consistent, persistent prayer?
- What does trusting God to "do right by you" look like in your current season? Are you open to the possibility that God's version of doing right by you might look different than yours?
- When you enter God's presence to pray, in all honesty, how do you think he feels (joyful, compassionate, indifferent, annoyed)? What insight might this give into your view of God?

Scripture Review

Revisit some of the scripture passages from this week and discuss the questions below.

- Luke 18:1-8
- How is the judge described? Why does the judge grant the widow justice?
- What is surprising or unsettling about the judge's response?
- What does the widow's persistence teach us about faith?

Diving Deeper

Use the verses below to dive into other passages of scripture that relate to the primary scripture passage from this week's sermon.

- **Old Testament:** Exodus 2:23-25, Jeremiah 33:3, Psalm 55:16-17, Psalm 86:3, Psalm 116:2, Isaiah 41:10, 1 Kings 8:28, 1 Samuel 7:8

- **New Testament:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Philippians 4:6, Matthew 7:11, Matthew 10:29-31, Ephesians 6:18, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Romans 12:12

Application & Action

It is important to take the knowledge you gain and see how it can become an actionable step that the Holy Spirit can use to produce transformation in your life.

Prayer is not something we master or optimize, it is something we are invited into. God is not measuring the quality of our prayer life; He is welcoming us into relationship. As you reflect together, let these questions create space for honesty, attentiveness, and openness to God's presence.

- **Listening to Jesus:** When you think about prayer right now, what do you notice in yourself—desire, discouragement, trust, resistance, or something else? What might Jesus be revealing to you about how you see God when you come to Him in prayer?
- **Walking with Him:** In Luke 18, what do you notice about the contrast Jesus makes between the unjust judge and God? How does trusting God to “do right by you” shape the way you bring things to Him throughout your day?
- **Anchoring in His Word:** How does this passage reshape your understanding of who God is when you pray – especially if prayer has felt discouraging in the past?
- **Leaning on His People:** When has praying with others helped you keep going in prayer when you might otherwise have given up?
- **Growing in His Likeness:** How might persistent prayer be shaping your faith or trust in Jesus, even if your circumstances haven't changed?
- **Action Step:** This week, where can you create a small, intentional space to keep bringing your life to God – trusting Him to do right by you?

2 Minute Takeaway

As you think about 2026, ask this simple question: What might Jesus be inviting you to keep bringing to Him in prayer this year?

There may already be something on your heart that hasn't gone away. Rather than giving up or moving on, consider persistently bringing that before God, trusting that He will always do right by you.

As you listen for God's invitation, you might find yourself drawn to pray:

- For a specific need or injustice in our local schools, community, or nation
- For persecuted Christians and missionaries around the world
- For someone you love who is struggling with addiction
- For a strained relationship or marriage in need of healing
- For a single person longing for companionship
- For someone far from God to come to faith
- For a prodigal to return home
- For healing—physical, emotional, or spiritual

You don't have to pray for everything. Choose one place to be faithful—one place to keep coming back to God—trusting that even if circumstances don't change right away, He is at work in you.

Prayer

Close your group time together with prayer.