

# WHITFIELD PARISH

## St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE group notes w/b Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
**Teach us to pray 2: God is willing and able**  
Luke 18:1-8

1. This is now the second study in our autumn series on prayer. Is anyone beginning to identify where or how they need help/encouragement/discipline/accountability to be more *'devoted'* (Acts 2:42) to prayer?

### **Read Luke 18:1-8**

Normally, a parable has one main point, and if we seek to attach meaning to every detail of the story we soon end up going beyond what Jesus is seeking to teach us. This parable is a little unusual in that Luke tells us what he understands the parable to be about (v1) but Jesus 'unpacks' the parable to apply it to a wider topic (vv6-8). This parable is found only in Luke's account.

2. What does Luke tell us the parable is about?
3. What bigger topic does Jesus apply the parable to?

If you remember, from our study of John 10:1-21 a fortnight ago, we explored the idea that a developing and dynamic prayer life is 'fuelled' by a Biblical understanding of ***the character of God***.

4. In what ways is God ***different*** to the unjust judge of the parable?

You may already do this but when diving into a Bible passage, get into the habit of always having a look at what comes before (and even after) it, i.e. ask ***"what is its context"?*** This is particularly important when a passage begins with a phrase such as "Therefore...", "Then..." or "After this..." This passage is preceded by Jesus teaching (17:20-37) about his return and the complete coming of the Kingdom of God. For those of you who like big words... the passage is eschatological (to do with the end times).

5. How might an eschatological/end of the world view of God's plans and purposes encourage or challenge us in our prayer life?
6. How might this passage encourage or challenge us when we pray for years for someone/a situation but see no answer from God?

In last week's study we were thinking about Samuel. Hannah prayed for a baby and *'in the course of time'* (1 Samuel 1:20) she conceived and gave birth to Samuel.

7. For how long should she have gone on praying? Months? Years? Just the once? !
8. How long should Christian couples trying for a baby today go on praying for that outcome? NB Please be sensitive when discussing this... there may well be folk in your group for whom, unknown to you, this is a painful topic.
9. How can we be (reasonably!) sure that we are praying for the ***right thing*** for someone/a situation?