

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Worth Repeating / Week 3

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

When it comes to prayer, don't quit because it's quiet.

SCRIPTURE

Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence. "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

(Luke 11:5-10 NLT)

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to pray with persistence and to believe that God hears them and is working on their behalf as they do.

THINK ABOUT THIS

A conversation on prayer is hard for any age group! Why? Because when it comes to prayer, we don't always get the results we want or expect. This is especially hard for middle schoolers as they may struggle to wait on the answers to their prayers or to even understand that there is a God they can't see working on their behalf. Our goal is simply to encourage them to try to keep praying! Just be careful how you talk about persistence when it comes to prayer. We never want to give students the illusion that persistence in prayer will always give you what you want or, on the opposite end, that if you didn't get what you prayed for, you simply weren't persistent enough.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DURING GROUP

ICE BREAKER

What's the longest you've had to wait in line for something?

DISCUSS THIS

1. What's one thing that middle schoolers have to wait for?
2. Why might it be easier to quit something rather than keep waiting for it to happen?
3. What's one prayer that God has answered in your life or in someone else's life?
4. Has God ever answered your prayer in a different way than you asked Him to?
5. Have you ever felt like God hasn't answered a prayer?
6. Do you think it's hard to believe God is listening or working for your good when your prayers aren't answered? Why or why not?
7. Do you think it's possible to be persistent and wait at the same time? Why or why not?
8. How might the way you view prayer change if you believed God really heard you and was doing something for you or in you no matter the outcome?
9. Why do you think it's important to be persistent and not give up when it comes to prayer?
10. This week, what's one step you can take toward praying persistently?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Break your students into groups of 2 or 3 and explain that this will be their prayer group for the week. Have each group create a plan for how they'll go about praying for each other. They could send a prayer-related text each morning, choose a specific time of day to be their prayer time, or commit to doing the YouVersion Devos together for this series.