

## STORIES: Mother's Day: May 13, 2018

### Reading Plan

Sunday-

Attend Church and take notes during the message.

Monday-

READ: **Luke 18:1-8**

REFLECT: As you look back at these verses, ask "Who", "What" and "Why"?

Who are the characters in this story?

What happened in the story?

Why did Jesus tell this story?

PRACTICE: What is one thing you want to pray for with persistence? (unsaved loved one, victory over a sinful habit, healing, etc.) Commit to praying until God answers and find someone to pray with you.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: Matthew 7:7-11

REFLECT: How does God's character differ from that of the judge in the parable? Why can we pray with confidence?

PRACTICE: Read this short article on prayer from Desiring God --  
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/keep-praying-that-prayer>

Tuesday-

READ: **Matthew 6:7-13**

REFLECT: What are some of the things Jesus tells his disciples to pray for in this model prayer? Note the pronouns 'our' and 'us' – think about how we can pray for our whole church and community.

PRACTICE: Using the Lord's prayer as a guide, try praying using only plural pronouns, praying for Grace Church, the church worldwide, the city of Erie, your neighborhood, etc.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: from RightNowMedia this short video about prayer. You can find it by searching "God Wants You to Talk To Him". <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/180343>  
(Don't have a RNM account yet? Email [sarah@whoisgrace.com](mailto:sarah@whoisgrace.com) to get started!)

REFLECT: Why is it important to pray for God's will to be done?

Wednesday-

READ: **Colossians 4:2; 1 Timothy 2:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

REFLECT: In these verses Paul talks about consistency and intensity in prayer. Instead of feeling guilt about your prayer life, what are some ways you can surrender this to God and ask Him to help you learn to pray?

PRACTICE: Decide on one new tool to help you be more persistent in prayer—maybe a journal, an app like Echo or Prayer Notes or even setting an alarm on your phone. Share your decision with someone you trust and ask them to hold you accountable by checking in with you every week as you learn to grow and persist in prayer.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: “Why Should I Pray if God Knows Everything?” on RightNowMedia  
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/180343> (If you need a RNM account, email [sarah@whoisgrace.com](mailto:sarah@whoisgrace.com))

Thursday-

READ: **John 14:13,14; John 15:7,16; John 16:23,24,26; James 4:2,3**

REFLECT: These verses were some of the last things Jesus said to His followers before He went to the cross. Why do you think He kept repeating this theme of asking and receiving? What does it mean to pray “in Jesus’ name”? What does James say about why our prayers may not be answered?

PRACTICE: Take a few minutes to think about whether you really want God’s will to be done when you pray. Take time to confess where you are holding more tightly to your will than His.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: This story about a man who shared Christ and prayed persistently: “Share Your Story!”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0II0mSkFvy4>

REFLECT: How can your prayers make an eternal difference in the lives of people you know?

Friday-

READ: **Revelation 5:8** and **8:3-5**

REFLECT: These verses tell us that every one of our prayers is so important that God preserves it like precious incense. If God values our prayers so much, how can we learn to value prayer more?

PRACTICE: Spend some time asking God to teach you to pray with persistence.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: this short video by John Piper on the importance of prayer: “Your Prayers Please God”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-tG6xGIWIA>

REFLECT: Not one prayer is wasted—even apart from us seeing an answer. NOT ONE!

Saturday-

Build Your Time with God Today!

Here are some suggestions:

- Review your time with God this week and spend a few minutes journaling a prayer: of praise for who He is, of confession for areas in your life needing His transformation, of thanks for what He has done and of needs for what He can do.
- Check out a Bible memorization app like Remember Me and start memorizing a key verse from this series.
- Check out The Bible Project resources [here](#) on Right Now Media to gain more insight and encouragement as you Find Your Chair. (If you don't yet have a RNM account, email [sarah@whoisgrace.com](mailto:sarah@whoisgrace.com) to get started.)