

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of March 9, 2025

CHECK-IN (~20 minutes)

How was your week? What was the high part of your week? What was the low part of your week? What can we celebrate together?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week, Pastor Brian continued our series, *A Kingdom Upside Down*. In his message, he taught from Luke 18, emphasizing the power and necessity of persistent prayer in the Christian life. Jesus contrasts the unjust judge, who grants justice out of annoyance, with God, who is loving and eager to hear His children's prayers. Unlike the widow, believers are not powerless or distant from God but are His children with full access to Him. Persistent prayer strengthens faith, keeps believers focused on God's character and promises, and prevents discouragement in difficult times. Jesus calls His followers to remain steadfast in faith, continually seeking God with confidence, knowing that He hears and answers in His perfect timing.

GROUP DISCUSSION (~50 minutes)

1. Thinking back to the message this week, was there anything that challenged you personally? Share your thoughts with the group.

2. *Read Luke 18:1-2; Psalm 68:5*

Why do you think Jesus used a widow and an unjust judge in this parable?

3. *Read Luke 18:7-8; James 5:16*

How does this parable encourage us to persist in prayer even when it seems like God is silent?

4. *Read Romans 8:15-16; Hebrews 4:16*

What does it mean to approach God as His children rather than as outsiders like the widow?

5. *Read Philippians 4:6-7*

In what areas of your life do you need to apply persistent prayer right now? How can the group support each other in this?

WRAP-UP (~10 minutes)

It is important to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and one another - what is one next step you can take this week to grow? Share with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

What does it look like to hold each other accountable? It can be as simple as a text or phone call during the week. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet regularly and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Example: “Hey ____, you indicated in group this week that you were struggling at work with being light in a dark place. You said that your next step was to start a conversation with someone at work this week around the topic of faith. How did that go?”

PERSONAL NOTES

This week, my next step is:

This week I am going to check in on (name):

This week, my Bible reading will be (e.g. Philippians chapters 1-4):