

Word notes Sunday 31/10/2010 Tony Hodge
Parables on Prayer

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: Luke 11:1-13

The disciples found Jesus at prayer and asked him how to pray. Something must have been different about the way Jesus prayed, even so it was expected that a rabbi would teach this (John the Baptist did so – see verse 1). Jesus answered in three ways:

- How – ie what to pray for – the "Lord's Prayer"
- What prayer is about – the parable. Relationship, need, boldness.
- The application– "So I say to you..." Father's heart to meet our needs. Earthly Dad's give good things – Father God gives The Best Thing – the Holy Spirit.

This whole section is Jesus' answer, not just the few verses of the Lord's Prayer.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

1, When was the last time you had to ask for help like the man in the parable?

Did you get what you needed?

Why do you think that person helped?

2, What kinds of things do you ask God for?

How does this match with the things Jesus told the disciples to pray for?

Do you expect God to help or just hope He will?

3, The friend in need received what he needed because of his boldness. What would you think of as "boldness" is prayer? (*Hint if stuck – asking even if it seems impossible, asking even if it seems trivial, asking at all if you are a self-reliant type*)

4, How bold and persistent in prayer are you right now? – give yourself a score between 1 and 10 for both boldness and persistence. NB you don't have to share these.

What changes could you make in your prayer life to increase those numbers?

5, In pairs share the steps you might take to be more bold or persistent and pray for each other. Next week ask how the other person got on and encourage them.

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

November is here so Christmas is not far away. How will the Cell support outreach events such as Late Night Shopping Carol singing (7th Dec), Carol singing on Studlands (date tbc, probably 15, 16 or 17th), NCC Carol Service (5pm Sun 19th).

Continue taking turns with the questions posed recently (if you've all done them discuss if you've had a chance to apply the experience gained in doing this)

Testimony Time: Ask two or three cell members to share their testimony as they would to a non-believer who had asked the question: "Why are you a Christian". Take turns over the next few weeks to get everyone to share.

If you've done that recently try this:

What do you believe: Ask two or three cell members to answer the question "What is a Christian?"