

THE CENTRALITY OF PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE w/b 11.01.2015

PASSAGE: LUKE 11 vs 1-11

DISCOVERY AND LAUNCH

- Can you think of your best teacher & why you thought they were so good?
- If one of your disciples were to ask you what the 3 key principles of prayer were, how would you respond?
- Prayer is about being in contact with the Father. On a scale of 1 to 10 how much are you feeling in contact with the father (1 = minimal and 10 = unbelievable). What are the obstacles to your contact & how can they be removed?

UNDERSTANDING

- What are the advantages of having a particular place to do your praying?
- What is your place and why did you choose it? What is your time for prayer and why did you choose that?
- Reading through the shortened version of the Lord's prayer in Luke, what are the key components of a healthy prayer life? Which ones do you tend to emphasise and which do you minimise in your own personal prayer life? Why do you think this is?
- Ben suggested that 'prayer reveals God to us and reveals God through us'. Can you think of any examples where this has been true in your life?
- What is the key advice that we learn from Jesus's story on how to pray (5-8) and how should we apply it to our prayer lives?
- Here are some good quotes on prayer:

It is good for us to keep some account of our prayers, that we may not unsay them in our practice. ~Matthew Henry

Prayers not felt by us are seldom heard by God. ~Philip Henry

I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. ~Abraham Lincoln

*Before we can pray, "Lord, Thy Kingdom come," we must be willing to pray, "My Kingdom go."
~Alan Redpath*

What do we think of them & how can we apply them to our lives?

APPLICATION

Spend some time praying as a group for issues including:

- Healing (over 50% of the congregation stood when Vic asked who needed physical healing on Sunday).
- Also pray for opportunities to share your faith with those who have not yet accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
- Finally international issues including: France, Ebola, the middle east all need our prayer.

Thanks and God bless you as you meet