

SERIES DISCUSSION GUIDE



GAME CHANGER
CHAD BRUEGMAN
JULY 28, 2024

If you would like to watch the message, visit rpc.me/messages.

MESSAGE RECAP

This week's message focuses on "bothering" God with shameless, audacious prayer. Never give up on praying. Remember that as a child of God, you have the right to talk with Him. Don't let feelings of worthlessness, shame, fatigue from unanswered prayers, or past disappointments with God prevent you from reaching out. He invites you to come to Him and share your needs and frustrations.

MAIN POINTS

- God loves to be bothered. He always wants to hear from you. Bother him!
- Come to prayer with shameless audacity. Approach the throne of grace in your time of need with boldness.
- There are times in life when you need to borrow faith because your faith tank is low. This is why community is so important so we can help each other fight each other's battles.
- Always pray and do not give up.

ICEBREAKER

- What are 1-2 pet peeves that really bother you these days?
- How does it make you feel to know you serve a God who never feels "bothered" by you?

READ

Luke 11:5-10

QUESTIONS

- How would you respond if a friend knocked on your door at midnight requesting not just one but three loaves of bread?
- In this passage, why does the requesting man get what he's asking for?
- Chad explained the history behind Jesus' example: In first-century Judea, the people were highly oppressed, making it extremely difficult to provide food for their families. So when a friend shows up at midnight asking for three loaves of bread, Jesus says the one inside will not respond to the request because of friendship, but because the need was asked with "shameless audacity," it will be answered. How would you define a shameless audacity request? (A bold and shameless request based on a need. Approaching the throne of grace in our time of need with boldness – in this example, the friend did not worry about waiting until morning to ask for bread but went for it!)
- How can shame impact our prayer life? (Shame is the result of sin and sin causes us to lose our confidence to come to God in our need.)
- Why is approaching prayer with shameless audacity important? (It holds us accountable to our faith and reminds us of our position as children of God. Our feelings, perceived worthiness, or performance should not determine when we come to God in prayer. God says that as His children, we have the right to approach Him and boldly ask for what we need.)
- While the word "asking" is straightforward, what do think "seeking" and "knocking" look like when applied to our prayer life? (We should never give up praying. This passage doesn't specify how, when, or in what timeframe God will respond, but it encourages us to be persistent and trust His will, timing, and plan for our request.)

READ

Luke 18:1-8

QUESTIONS

- How would you describe the heart of the judge in this passage?
- Despite how the judge felt about the widow, why did he answer her request? (She kept bothering him)
- Chad identified three common reasons why we stop praying: 1) We feel unworthy, 2) We experience results fatigue, assuming God is tired of hearing our prayers, and 3) Past disappointments with God. How have these reasons affected you personally? Is there anything you would add to this list?
- How does persistent prayer build our faith? (Prayer demonstrates faith and trust in God and His word. Prayer is not transactional; it's relational. We pray to demonstrate our faith in God, that He will do as He has promised in His Word and bless our lives abundantly more than we could ask, think or hope for (Ephesians 3:20)).

APPLICATION QUESTION

- How will you apply the message to your life this week?
 - If you are struggling with prayer Chad invites you to start with this prayer: "God would you give me a desire to want to be in your presence."

CLOSE IN PRAYER: your closing prayer could include the following:

1. *Gratitude.* Thank you, Lord, for giving us this time together to study Your Word.
2. *Acknowledgment of "a-ha" moments.* We are so grateful for the new awareness and insights you gave us today.
3. *Request for help throughout the week.* As we go back to our homes, families, and workplaces, please remind us of what we've learned today and give us the courage and strength to obey whatever You are calling us to do. Amen.

LEADERS: Grab your group and join us as we come together for our first night of **Worship & Prayer on Thursday, August 1st at 7pm.**

This will be our last series discussion guide for the summer. If you are continuing to meet and need a list of resources email smallgroups@rpc.me. Our fall series discussion guide will begin on Sunday, September 8th.