

## Life Group Questions w/b Sunday 14 March 2021

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent: Facing Fatigue

#### Introduction

- How have your energy levels been in the most recent lockdown?
- Have they affected your prayer life? How difficult have you found it to pray recently?
- During this time, have you felt that God has been answering your prayers?
- How much have you been tempted to give up on praying altogether?

#### Read: Luke 18:1-8

- What is the purpose of the parable? (18:1)
- What is the widow's plea about? (18:3,7)
- In this parable, the judge is not compared to God in the sense that God is like the judge. Rather, the character of the judge is contrasted with the character of God. What differences do we find between them in (18:4) and (18:7-8)?
- Does this ring true for you? How often have you had to wait for answers to your prayers?
- How does the parable highlight God's desire to bring justice? (18:6-8)
- How far do you think that justice issues are neglected in our prayers?

In this culture, a widowed woman has no status.

- What does the parable say is our status before God? (18:7) What do you think this means exactly? How much of a difference could remembering this make to our prayers?
- How much do you think God likes to answer our prayers? (See also Luke 11:1-13, especially verses 9-13)

Perseverance is one of the key ideas in this parable – that we should persevere in asking God for things because of who God is, rather than because of what he does for us.

- How might this encourage us to keep on praying, even when we think we are not getting an answer? (18:8) Share any other ways in which you find it helpful to persevere.
- How can praying with others help us to persevere? (See the example of Moses in Exodus 17:10-13)

#### Prayer Focus Suggestion

Why not decide to keep a record of answered prayers for the things that you've been praying for as a group? Refer to it in your prayer times to give you a basis for regular thanksgiving, and as an opportunity to encourage one another.

**PS** In his book 'God on Mute' Pete Greig addresses the problems we face when we feel like our prayers are hitting the ceiling. This book is a must for anyone wanting to engage more deeply with the topic of 'unanswered prayer'.