Taking it Home:

1. In what ways is God speaking to you through the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector?

Prayer Concerns:

Praying Dependently

Luke 18:9-14 – Page 1628

Through prayer, we draw near to God, seek His direction for our church, and receive strength for life and ministry. In prayer, the Holy Spirit empowers us to do the will and work of God.

1. Prayer is for the _____

2. In prayer, we turn from _____to _____ on God. [2 Cor. 1:8-11]

3. In prayer, Jesus invites us into _____ of _____ on the Father.

4. The greatest prayer one can ever pray:

"God, have mercy on me, a sinner." [Luke 18:14]

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What is your greatest struggle when it comes to prayer?

Digging Deeper:

Read Luke 18:9-14

1. What group of people would be the Pharisees today? The tax collectors? What would be the "Pharisee's Prayer"?

2. When have you been like the Pharisee? Like the tax collector? What accounts for the difference?

3. What made the tax collector's prayer pleasing to God?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11. How are the attitudes of helplessness and dependence central to our entire Christian lives and not just our prayer lives?

5. Author Paul Miller said, "God wants us to come to him empty-handed, weary, and heavy-laden. Instinctively, we want to get rid of our helplessness before we come to God." How is our strength a hindrance to God working in our lives?

6. How did Jesus demonstrate what it means to live in dependence on God the Father?

7. What are you praying dependently for right now? Ask your Growth Group to pray with you.