



Week 8 | Short Stories | July 9

Key Focus: Faith

Opening Up:

- Are you more of a numbers person or a word person? How so? If neither, explain.
- What is your favorite word or phrase?
- What word should people use more and why?
- In your past, what word or phrase has meant a lot to you? Why?
- If you could say one sentence to anyone and you knew they would hear you, what would you say and to whom?

Reference: Matthew Luke 18:1-8

Discuss:

1. Eugene Peterson wrote, "...The fig leaves signpost a language catastrophe. Words are no longer a means of intimacy, of revelation. They're fig-leaf words. The man and woman who speak them are no longer open to one another, free in the garden, lost in wonder, delighted in what had been given to them. No longer open to God." Why is it hard to be vulnerable with others in conversation or with God in prayer?
2. We are told to "always pray and not lose heart." (18:1) What is the relationship between losing heart (exhaustion) and a poor or nonexistent prayer life?
3. In what ways could prayer prevent exhaustion in life?
4. God is not like the bad judge. You are not like the helpless widow. Prayer is child-to-Father talk. How does knowing this effect your prayer life?
5. Are you every tempted to put your head down and work rather than bowing your head in prayer? Why is this so?
6. Dwight L. Moody wrote, "one day, in the city of New York—oh, what a day!—I cannot describe it, I seldom refer to it; it is almost too sacred an experience to name.... I can only say that God revealed himself to me, and I had such an experience of his love that I had to ask him to stay his hand." Have you ever had an experience like D.L. Moody? Do you want to know God in this way?
7. Read 1 John 5:14-15. Are there things that you know are God's will for your life right now? How can we pray for those things?
8. Pray.