



Today we continued Jesus' teaching on prayer as he told us 2 stories to help shape our understanding of what God is like.

We noted from the story about the man heading next door at night asking for bread that the key point to note was dependence. He had no-where else to go! He could only head next door for help. We noted from the story about a Father giving his son good gifts that God can only give us good things. This is particularly helpful when there are unanswered prayers in life – perhaps if God gave us what we wanted that would be more like a scorpion or snake than a fish or an egg.

We noted too that sometimes (like Paul in 2 Cor 12) God doesn't answer our prayers as we would like, but in better (sometimes more painful) ways to keep us looking to him in our weakness.

Here are some questions to help your group engage.

There are too many questions here, so consider what will be most useful for your group.

Do you find it easy to pray? Why / why not? When do you find it easier? When harder?

What is Jesus teaching us about prayer from these 2 stories?

What is Jesus teaching us about God from these 2 stories?

Are you ever out of your depth and unable to manage or so comfortable that we don't really need to be dependent upon God?

Why does God not sometimes give us what we want? (note the context of what came last week)

What would you say to someone who was still praying hard but God had not provided?

How can we grow in our prayer lives?