**Small Group Material - Teach us how to pray, 2**

**Keep at it! Mt 7. 7 - 11**

**Welcome** (10 mins) Can you think of something that you asked God for and he didn’t given it to you? Be as honest as you want to be!

**Worship** (10 - 15 mins) Read Psalm 146, a verse for each person. Turn it into praise and thanksgiving for God’s provision. Why not go round in a circle taking it in turns. *(If a person doesn’t want to pray out loud, they can say pass or touch their neighbour. This is a really good way of encouraging everyone to take part.)*

You could sing, ‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God’ (a bit old-fashioned now!) or ‘Lord, I come to you’ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9\_0jiO5ZRM

**Word**

**Read Matthew 7.7-11**

1. What is Jesus teaching us here about prayer? Note that the tense of the verbs is present continuous. What does that mean?

What prevents us from bringing our needs and requests to God?

2. What is the central point that Jesus in the illustrations that Jesus uses? v.9-11

3. Look up the parallel passage in Luke 11.5-13. What further points is Jesus teaching here? (Note: v.8 and v.13)

Can you think of an example from your own life when you have had to persist *and keep persisting* to get something you wanted?

4. What are some of the good gifts (Mt 7.11) that God will give to those who pray? (cf Ephesians 3.14-21)

**Witness**

**A Social** Discuss what you could do as a social event this term.

**Alpha** Pray for the results of Alpha Launch Event on Tuesday 24th April. Warren and Dee have a wonderful story of God completely transforming their lives through Alpha.

Pray for guests to sign up for Alpha and even for more guests to come in the first weeks!

Are there guests you could invite (and bring) to Alpha? Pray for possible guests by name and for Youth Alpha.

**The Middle East** Pray for the situation in the Middle East. See websites of The Barnabas Fund or Open Doors for up-to-date information about Syria and Syrian Christians.

Often groups end the evening by saying ‘The Grace’ together. Here is a different blessing you could ‘bless’ one another with as you go you separate ways:

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you;**

**may he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm;**

**may he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you;**

**may he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors.**