



WEEK 6 Prayer

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever prayed a prayer (*pick one to share*):

- that God answered in the natural immediately?
- that it was years later that God answered?
- that was so bizarre that you thought God wouldn't answer?

SCRIPTURE READING

Read: Acts 2:1-4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• PRAYER IS LEARNED

Read: Luke 11:1

The Disciples of Jesus saw Jesus do many amazing things. They saw Him heal the sick, calm the storm, teach the crowds and even raise people from the dead. But when it came to them wanting to learn something from Jesus, when it came to these followers wanting to know how to do what Jesus did, it wasn't, "Lord teach me to calm the storms," or "Lord, show me how to teach like You do," or "Teach me to heal the blind." What they did ask Jesus was this, "Lord teach me to pray."

Reflect on a time when you had no words to pray but asked the Lord for what to say. Describe to your group what happened during this experience.

• PRAYER IS PERSONAL

Read: Luke 11:2-4 / Luke 11:11-13

When we see God as our loving Father, it helps us to pray more confidently and even affectionately to Him. God isn't a distant, angry figurehead who we have to beg and beg for attention to hear from us and meet our needs. *Prayer is not about your lofty words, it about relationship.*

Our heavenly Father desires us to come to Him in prayer as we would come to our own earthly father and simply speak as we would to him. Why do you think some people's prayer life seems more intimate than others?

What are some things that inhibit us from praying?

• PRAYER PREPARES US

Read: 1 Kings 17:1-7
1 Kings 18:20-40

It was during Elijah's ordained time of separation that he learned to trust God's miraculous provision like never

before. Every day Elijah was dependent on God to send the ravens with food ... and every day the Lord faithfully sustained him. If we are going to be strong enough to stand for truth, it requires us to separate ourselves and seek solitude with God. Often, it's in that place of isolation and separation, when we are dependent on God to sustain us, that we see His miraculous provision and faithfulness on display in our life. And when we experience God in such a personal way - day after day - it strengthens our faith. *God prepares us privately so we can serve Him publicly.*

Has there been a time in your life that the Lord set you apart so that you had to rely completely on Him - seeking Him for direction in your prayers?

How have you grown in your prayer life as a follower of Jesus allowing Him to prepare you privately so you can serve Him publicly?

• PRAYER REVIVES US

Read: Psalm 139:23-24 / Psalm 51:10

In 1797, there was a New England minister who was describing his days at Yale University. He wrote, "The college church was almost extinct. Most of the students were skeptical, and rowdies were plenty. Wine and liquors were kept in many rooms; intemperance, profanity, gambling and licentiousness were common." For several months a small group of students met weekly to pray that God would bring spiritual awakening to Yale. These few students devoted themselves to prayer and in 1802 a full-fledged revival swept across the campus.

The first part of what we read above sounds much like society in general. However, where two or three are gathered with God, they make a majority. What are some things we can pray for that will change the hearts of people at our workplace, our communities, our province and nation?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Acts 2:42-47 is like holding up a mirror and examining how we look in it. Am I following in the footsteps of Jesus and Peter and the Early Church?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Pray for the listed items from the last discussion question. Do this alone or with others and let's raise our prayers together to our Father to see lives changed for His glory.

PRAISE REPORTS / PRAYER REQUESTS