

Sermon audio is available online – be sure to listen to the message before engaging in this talksheet.
The sermon outline is available at the end of this talksheet.

OPEN WITH PRAYER

ICE BREAKERS...

→ What is the most difficult aspect of prayer for you? Why?

THE WORD OF GOD / DISCUSSION POINTS...



Read John 14:13-14

“Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.” (John 14:13-14 - NAS)

? The key phrase in this passage is ‘in My name.’ What does that phrase mean, and how does that phrase affect Jesus’ promise here?

John Wesley:

“God does nothing except in response to prayer.”

? Do you believe this quote by John Wesley? Why or why not?



Read Luke 6:12

“It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.” (Luke 6:12 - NAS)

? Jesus spent all night praying. Why do you suppose Jesus prayed so much? What can we learn from His example?



Read James 5:13-16

“Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” (James 5:13-16)

? Do you find that your prayers are “powerful and effective”? If not, why do you suppose that is?

Andrew Murray:

“We must begin to believe that God, in the mystery of prayer, has entrusted us with a force that can move the Heavenly world, and can bring its power down to earth.”

? Why do you think God has chosen prayer to demonstrate His power in our lives?

Charles Spurgeon:
“Prayer can never be in excess.”

 **Read I Thessalonians 5:16-18**

“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (I Thessalonians 5:16-18 – NAS)

? What do you think Paul means by *“pray without ceasing”*? How can you develop this habit on a practical, day-to-day basis?

Dr. A. T. Pierson:
“There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.”

Andrew Murray:
“The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history.”

 **Read I Timothy 2:1-4**

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (I Timothy 2:1-4)

? Paul urges us to pray for *“everyone.”* Who do you tend to pray for the most? Who do you need to add to your prayer list?

? According to this I Timothy 2:1-4, what are some of the results of prayer? [hint: see all the text following the phrase *“that we may...”*]

 **Read Colossians 4:12; Ephesians 6:12-19**

“Epaphras... He is always wrestling in prayer...” (Colossians 4:12)

? What do you think it means to *“wrestle in prayer”*?

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms... And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests” (Ephesians 6:12, 18 – **KJV** and NIV)

? According to this passage in Ephesians, who are we wrestling against? How does this speak to the fact that we need to pray *“on all occasions”*?

 **Read John 15:5**

“...apart from Me, you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

? What does Jesus mean by the term *“nothing”* here?

Hudson Taylor:

“I have seen many men work without praying, though I have never seen any good come out of it; but I have never seen a man pray without working.”

? What does this quote from Hudson Taylor say about the priority of prayer in relationship to other aspects of Christian ministry?



Read Colossians 4:2

“Devote yourselves to prayer...” (Colossians 4:2)

Oswald Chambers:

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.”



Read Matthew 21:13

“My house will be called a house of prayer...” (Matthew 21:13)

? Of all the things Jesus wants His house to be called, why do you suppose it's prayer?

CLOSE IN PRAYER...

'Awake!'

"Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10 - KJV)

"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it." (John 14:13-14 - NAS)

"It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God." (Luke 6:12 - NAS)

"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:13-16)

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"Epaphras... He is always wrestling in prayer..." (Colossians 4:12)

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:12)

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"...apart from Me, you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

"Devote yourselves to prayer..." (Colossians 4:2)

"pray without ceasing." (I Thessalonians 5:17 - NAS)

"My house will be called a house of prayer..." (Matthew 21:13)

"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1)

NOTEWORTHY QUOTES:

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Charles Spurgeon:

“True prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.”