

Pray #10

Fruitful Praying



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Part of Connect Group Questions
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Happy Summer Connect Groupers!

This study helps complete our Summer Gather Teaching Series entitled “Pray.” The objective of this study is to review the series and identify the important “tune ups” to your prayer life with the Master.

GETTING STARTED

Toward the end of his helpful book *A Praying Life*, Paul Miller includes a number of specific “tools” to use to keep one’s prayer life on the tracks and moving forward. He suggests tools like using PRAYER CARDS – a 3x5 notecard in which you can place a name, write in particular notes about the person, a Scripture to pray into the life, special answers God brings about. Perhaps you use cards, or have another tool. Share with your group mates what you do, or what helpful tools you may use, to mark how God is answering.

IN THE WORD

Here are some key lessons from each message in the Summer 2018 series. Read them over, along with the Scriptures, and discuss how any of these have moved your prayer life forward.

A CHURCH and MEN WHO PRAY (1 Timothy 2:1-8) *Pastor David* “A confused world truly needs a church (and especially men) that prays... seriously prays.”

PRAY HONESTLY (1 John 1:5-2:2) *Pastor Mark* – “A life that is defined by Jesus Christ is shaped by confessing prayer; praying honestly and confessing your sin to Him.”

PRAYING UNDER PRESSURE (Daniel 6) *Pastor David* – “When

time with God has become a vital necessity, pressure does not displace it; it deepens it.”

SURPRISING PRAYER (Romans 8:1) *Karen Heiligenthal* – “You can have confidence God is looking at you – His child- full of favor and enjoyment. Pray and pray and pray and pray until your prayer becomes praise.”

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING (1 Thess 5:17) *Pastor David* “Unceasing prayer is breathing-like; at-a-moment’s-notice communication with God, in every and any situation in living.”

PREPATORY PRAYER (Mark 1:35, cf. Psalms) *Pastor Brent* “Pray before the challenges we expect, and before those we don’t expect. Without pre-praying, we are not prepared.”

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO DON’T KNOW JESUS (Matthew 9:36-37) *Pastor Kip* “The Scripture clearly teaches prayer for us as evangelists, to pray for laborers who exhibit Jesus’ own compassion for people...knowing the harvest is ready.”

PRAYING THE PSALMS (Psalm 3, 13, 69, others) *Pastor Wayne* “The Psalms, like our prayers can be, are brutally honest, quite insistent, and provide help both in the immediate as well as in the long game.”

PRAYER PRACTICES OF THE MASTER (Luke 5, 11, 22) *Pastor Kyle* “In Him we find a regular rhythm of withdrawing to pray, a praying more caught than taught, a praying to stay connected to the Father’s will and presence.”

FRUITFUL PRAYING (John 15:1-11) *Pastor David* “To the first 11 disciples, and to us, Jesus makes crystal clear what success in life truly is – joyful fruitfulness. The result of a disciple abiding, praying, and obeying.”

MY LIFE - OUR MISSION

We are convinced that someday, those of us who walked together in Christ at Christ Community Church, will stand before the Lord and await His assessment. What did we live for? How did we size up

success? ***Were we fruitful in connecting people to life-defining relationships in Christ?*** Did we try to do this independently, or were we truly, vitally attached to the Vine?

As the summer season closes, and we lean into a new ministry year, take some time together to both note how your praying has been tuned up, deepened, empowered....and then PRAY for the days ahead. How would you like to be joyfully fruitful?