



### Priority of Prayer

*“All I know is that when I pray things happen, and when I don’t pray things don’t happen.” (The Promise Keeper at Work, pg.27)*

**Warm-Up:** Talk about your top priorities of each day. What are the things on your “check off” list? When you feel a sense of accomplishment for the day, how did that day start and end? In the course of a day that “just got too busy”, what appointment was the first to miss the list?

#### **Read Mark 1:16-39**

- Describe the activities that filled the busy life of Jesus in this chapter, and all the things that might have contributed to exhaustion.
- Why do you think it was so important to Jesus not to miss quality time with His Father?
- Why then is “I’m just too busy” a copout for our lack of prayer?
- Identify what are some basic components of the quiet time that Jesus had. (vs. 35)

Share some ideas about how to duplicate Jesus’ pattern and priority for prayer if someone is NOT a “morning person”.

**We love people. We want God’s best for them. We are quick to say “I’ll pray for you” to those we see on a given day, especially the ones who are going through tough times—such as a family member, neighbor down the street, grocery store clerk, minister or church staff member . . . but do we?**

We know that the Bible calls us to be intentional about prayer. Think about the Apostle Paul’s plea for prayer in general and on his behalf: “praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel” (Ephesians 6:18-19).

### Making it Daily

Here are some guidelines/suggestions on how to have a “place” and “way” for every prayer so you can be sure to identify some priorities as you pray.

**Monday: Pray for Your Family.** Take time to pray for each member of your family and extended family members. Entrust each one to the Lord. Wherever they are in their relationship with God...pray that their faith is growing. Be as specific as you can and ask that He will meet them at their point of need.

**Tuesday: Pray for God’s Family.** Pray for the church, starting with our local church. Pray for your pastor(s), ministry leaders (e.g., elders, deacons, missionaries, teachers, nursery workers) and their families. Who else in the church needs prayer? Now think of the church at large. Pray, asking that God’s *“City Set on this Hill”* in Jefferson City will continue to be an outreach.

**Wednesday: Pray for Your Community.** Think about the groups that you are a part of and pray for the people you see regularly—those you live near, work with, bump into at school or the store, and so forth. How have they asked you to pray for them? How will you follow through as God answers those requests? Pray that the Lord will meet each one at his or her point of need, both physically and spiritually, according to His will.

**Thursday: Pray for our Nation.** Pray for the revival of God’s people, and that we will be “hands and feet” of Jesus as we truly love and serve those around us. Pray for those in authority. Ask God to bring to mind local and national spiritual and political leaders, and pray for each. Pray about national issues and challenges, such as the economy and its impact on everyday families.

**Friday: Pray for the World.** Pray that God will use His people to help others “to know Christ and to make Him known.” Pray for strong Christ followers who would respond with Jesus’ love, grace, compassion and wisdom to social struggles—add to your prayer list specific needs for outreach that you are aware of. Finally, pray for the advancement of the Gospel everywhere. **Matthew 24:14.**

**Saturday: Pray for the Helpless, Hopeless, Hurting and Lost.** As part of a regular Pray Every Day strategy, on Saturdays take time to pray for the down-and-out. Start with the world, draw closer to your nation, closer to your state, and closer still to your own community. List the names of, and pray for, the physically and spiritually afflicted. Pray specifically for ministries that are reaching out to the helpless, hopeless, hurting and lost.

**Sunday: Pray for Personal Guidance.** Finally, take time to pray for your own personal growth. Sometimes we pray for everything and everyone else but forget to look inside. On Sundays, pull away and pray for you! Walk with God through every aspect of your life—personal, family, work, community, and church aspects of your life. Are you growing in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and your fellow man? Ask God to make you aware of where you need to grow. **Psalms 139** And, listen!