

PRAYER – WEEK 1

June 3, 2018



We begin a new series this week on prayer. As we get started, talk about some goals and priorities you plan to set for yourself and your cord of three for the weeks ahead. For instance, make a mutual spoken commitment from the group to be an active participant, and personally pray for each other. Then, talk about who will be a part of a specific 30 – day prayer challenge July 15 – Aug 15 this summer.

Share your thoughts, ideas, and experiences that you have when it comes to prayer. What do we think discourages us so much from being persistent in our prayers? Pause and pray... asking God to open up your heart and mind today and the weeks ahead.

Read Luke 11:1-13 what do you see in this passage? Do you think there was any reluctance for the disciples to go and ask Jesus about prayer? Jesus is graciously giving his disciples a simple model to follow, however, because of their culture they would have prayed in a more formal way, likely referring to God in terms that tended to put Him at a distance, but here Jesus is teaching them to know Him as their Father in heaven who is responsive to their needs.

- What do you think motivated Jesus' disciples to ask Him for instruction on how to pray?
- What is so masterful about the answer Jesus gave? And, what is so significant about addressing God as Father?
- What do you think Jesus expected the disciples to do with this prayer? What do you think He wasn't expecting them to do with it?
- Why do you think Jesus told the story of the midnight visitor?
- Why is persistence in prayer difficult?

Wrap – Up...share one or two challenges/needs in the group and pray together about them.

On your own ...pray:

- **Asking yourself what or who motivates you to pray? Why?**
- **How can I overcome my natural reluctance to persevere in prayer?**