



# Digging Deeper

[Engage the message throughout the week]

## Monday: 10.10.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Simple Prayer

**Passage:** 2 Chronicles 20:2-12

**Insight:** *Simple prayer is a prayer that is not focused on what we should be but who we are and where we are. It's honest and transparent. It's short and to the point. Today's reading isn't necessarily short but I want our focus to be on Jehoshaphat's final sentence of his prayer (end of verse 12).*

**Questions for consideration:**

*What does this simple prayer say about Jehoshaphat as a leader?*

*When you don't know what to do, what do you do?*

*If you want to see God provide in this story, read to verse 30.*

## Tuesday: 10.11.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Prayer of Question

**Passage:** Psalm 88

**Insight:** *The prayer of question leads us to a place where we often feel alone and out of touch with the presence of God. Psalm 88 may be one of the saddest of Psalms recorded. Have you felt times like the Psalmist has written about today? Can you identify with the hopelessness that echoes through these words?*

**Questions for consideration:**

*When was there a time in your life you cried out to God?*

*What do you think it says about God that he allows this type of emotion to be a part of our prayers?*

## Wednesday: 10.12.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Prayer of Personal Examine

**Passage:** Psalm 139

**Insight:** *A prayer of examination takes requires us to be objective and open. We are about to see a clear picture of ourselves and it could be painful. King David poetically reminds us that God's knowledge of us and our needs went before our birth. He was a part of our formation from the womb to this moment. Focus your reading on verses 23-24.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*How could your day been different if this were a part of your morning?*

*What does David ask the Lord to do with any discovery of wickedness or offensive way with him?*

## Thursday: 10.13.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Prayer of Relinquishment

**Passage:** Matthew 26:36-46

**Insight:** *The prayer of relinquishment is a prayer of surrender. In the Nazarene movement, the word that is often used for surrender is sanctification (to be set aside as holy). There is no greater prayer of relinquishment than the final prayer of Jesus before his arrest. As you read this story, consider the depth of emotion and the lack of response to it by the disciples.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*Why do you think Jesus was overwhelmed with sorrow?*

*Is God's will harder to wait for or embrace in the moment?*

*How do you think Jesus felt about his A Team after they couldn't recognize the seriousness of the moment?*

## Friday: 10.14.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Our church worship services (10/16)

**Passage:** James 1:5-8

**Insight:** *We are commanded here to ask for what we do not have. But the challenging part of this passage is not the call to ask or seek ... but the challenge to not doubt. We have used this passage to link doubting the prayer's effectiveness to it's eventual answer. James even calls a doubter "unstable" for not believing in your prayer. These are haunting words for our generation.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*How do you understand the role of doubt in your prayer life?*

*How confident are you in your prayers being answered?*

