

Digging Deeper

[Engage the message throughout the week]

Monday: 10.24.2011

Prayer Focus: Praying the Ordinary

Passage: 1 Corinthians 10:31

Insight: *Praying the ordinary involves looking at your day not as a hindrance to communicating with God but rather an asset. Using last week's prayer of meditation, take today's verse with you throughout your day. Focus on giving God everything ... the good, the bad, the planned events and the surprises.*

Questions for consideration:

How does this type of prayer change your outlook on how to pray?

Do you find this easy or challenging?

Can you pray for your frustrations or your blessings easier?

Tuesday: 10.25.2011

Prayer Focus: Prayer of Petition

Passage: Mark 5:24b-34

Insight: *The prayer of petition looks at the needs of your life. Jesus was clear that we should ask and ask with determination. Make a list of the things you wish you could have a conversation with Jesus about ... then imagine going into his office for a conference! Don't give up but ultimately accept His will.*

Questions for consideration:

Is it easier to pray for your needs or the needs of others?

How easy is it for you to give up on praying for your needs?

What do you need God to do on your behalf today?

Wednesday: 10.26.2011

Prayer Focus: Prayer of Intercession

Passage: Mark 5:1-24a; 35-43

Insight: *The prayer of intercession takes our eyes off of the normal events of the day and our needs and forces us to empathize with our friends, family and neighbors. Too often we tell people, "I'll pray for you" and then fail to really seek God on their behalf. Let's get serious about praying with boldness and lifting one another up to the throne of grace.*

Questions for consideration:

What have you been burdened to pray for today (for others)?

Do you find it difficult to confidently tell someone "I'll pray for you"?

How can you remind yourself to pray for a need? Try something new that will help you remember to follow through with this prayer.

Thursday: 10.27.2011

Prayer Focus: Prayer of Faith/Healing

Passage: Mark 7:31-37

Insight: *The prayer of faith and healing could possibly be the scariest type of prayer we've talked about in this series. We want to be healed by God. We believe he can. But we also believe it's not likely. That gap between faith and action keeps us from so many moments God desires to heal and provide the miraculous. The prayer of healing usually starts with a prayer of desperation. Be honest and seek the Lord's touch today.*

Questions for consideration:

What do you need healed in your life? Physical? Emotional?

Relational? What else comes to mind ...

How desperate are you for God to work in your life in this way?

Why do you think it's difficult for you to believe God can or will provide this miracle for you or someone else?

Friday: 10.28.2011

Prayer Focus: Our church worship services (10/30)

Passage: Matthew 28:18-20

Insight: *As we prepare for Sunday, we will begin a new series looking at the mission and mandate that God has given our church. We don't just go to church because it's the right thing to do. We go because as a believer or seeker of Christ, His love compels us to meet with others like us and grow in our understanding of God's love and mercy. Pray that God will open your heart to the mandate he has given our church and you personally.*

Questions for consideration:

How often do you think about the mission of the church?

What do you think will be contributing factors to the success or failure of the church to accomplish our mission?

What do you think your role will be to ensure the mandate being carried out?