

## Prayer and Repentance

### Adult Sunday School

“A good church is one that believes that prayers actually do something because God loves to answer our prayers”. Joe Brown

#### I. Group Discussion Question

- What is prayer? What is one thing you are praying for these days?

#### II. What is prayer?

- Q. 98. What is prayer?  
A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.
- Q. 99. What rule has God given for our direction in prayer?  
A. The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called the Lord's Prayer.

#### III. Cause Study: Acts 4:23-31

<sup>23</sup> When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup> who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

““Why did the Gentiles rage,  
and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers were gathered together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed’—

<sup>27</sup> for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” <sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

- What motivated the believers to prayer?
- What did they use as a rule to guide their prayers?
- What did the believers pray for or did not prayer for?
- How did God answer their prayers?

#### **Two applications**

- Look up (v. 24)
  - Bumblebee can fly.
- Look around (v. 23)
  - *“If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together”*. An African Proverbs.

#### **IV. Pray for the need of the Church**

#### **V. End the time with the Lord’s prayer (Mat. 6:9-13)**

### **Women's Leadership Development:**

- The Curriculum Team who writes our Bible studies, as they study and seek to ask thoughtful, and Christ-centered questions.
- The large and small group Facilitators at Restore and Wellspring, as they lead women in love through the book of Jonah.
- The women around the tables as they are in the Word together. Please pray for the Spirit to build their confidence in studying, their trust in Christ, and their fellowship together.

### **The Deaconate Ministry:**

- Wisdom for the lessening in mercy funds (and seeing God in all seasons - of both abundance and need)
- Wisdom, courage and love as we interact with mercy cases that are accelerating in number and size.
- That the deacons would see Jesus in their office and roles; especially in their interaction with members and our neighbors and be encouraged.

### **ESL and Neighborhood**

- Prayer for volunteers and that God would continue to give them perseverance, creativity, and opportunities to build relationships.
- Prayer that the ESL leadership would continue to introduce methods to share the gospel boldly and encourage volunteers to enjoy of the fruit of sharing the Word of God.

### **Administration office**

- Soft hearts towards everyone we encounter in the office, parking lot, phone, etc.
- Handle interruption with grace and eyes to see God's provision in people's lives.
- Wisdom as we engage with staff and technicians from companies on a regular basis who help us take care of the building.
- Our custodians, especially our day porter, Derna

### **In Jesus' name Food Pantry**

- That our neighbors would see and experience Jesus when they come for assistance, and that they would have a personal encounter with the living God.
- That our volunteers would be salt and light as they serve and be able to talk with and pray over each neighbor before they leave.

### **For homegroups**

- That the leaders will arise to form new groups
- That there will be a renewed interest in home groups
- That people will feel loved and connected - small groups is how we make the big church seem smaller.

### **For Marriage Ministry**

- Pray for the marriages in this church
- Pray for us to bear with one another

**For Adult discipleship, Men's ministry, Library, Ministry to young adults, Ministry to disabled persons, Ministry to mature singles**

- That church leadership will offer what is needed
- That we always preach the gospel in all that we do.
- That we fellowship with one another
- That we pull in those that are on the fringes

**Mission and church planting**

- For the country of Spain; for WEPC Mission Partners, JF & SF (Serge); For countries represented by the members & friends of WEPC who are new to life in the United States. That the Gospel would go forth in those countries. For the missionaries Jesus has sent to the US.
- For our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America, our Presbytery (James River), and for church planting in our region; For current church plants of the James River Presbytery, including Iglesia Hispana Presbiteriana (Midlothian), New Creation Presbyterian, (Chester) and River Run Presbyterian (Amelia). For a full list of WEPC Daughter & Partner Churches and Initiatives: <https://wepc.org/outreach/church-planting/>

**Worship and Arts**

- Pray that God would encourage the hearts of all of the volunteers (musicians, audio + video techs, communion prep) - that as they lead others in worship, they would know the joy of salvation in Christ.
- Pray that God would use the work of the worship arts team to soften, convict, and draw hearts of the people in our church to Him. That we would be a people who love to worship our Father.

**Youth Group**

- Pray for our team to be able to manage our time well in order to be intentional about reaching out to students to spend time with them.
- Pray for the students to be able to remember God's love for them in the midst of their busy lives, especially when they feel lonely.

**WEPC Community Preschool:**

- Pray that the Lord would strengthen our staff and fill them with what they need each day to point the kids and parents to Jesus.
- Pray that the Lord would use our new 1st Fridays parent events to build community and friendships amongst the parents and that they'd be an encouragement to each other.