

Big Prayers

Acts 1:12-14

"All these were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers." - Acts 1:14

Main Point: God will do Big things through our church when we are united in prayer

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

What is something about church that you look forward to each week? Explain.

What is the biggest thing (ministry, worship experience, fellowship) that you've been involved with in a church? How did it shape your view of the Body of Christ and its power?

Jesus had ascended to heaven and the disciples were left with a huge, some would say impossible, undertaking. Spreading the gospel of Jesus to Jerusalem was hard enough, but to the ends of the world?? They knew they needed help and it was going to take a united front to accomplish their goal. So how were they able to achieve the unachievable? By dropping on their knees together in prayer.

The disciples were willing to go to their knees in prayer because:

1) **THEY WERE MOTIVATED.** Have a volunteer read **Acts 1:4-12.**

What helped to motivate the disciples to accomplish their mission in verses 8 & 9? Why do you think this gave them confidence?

While waiting upon the arrival of the Holy Spirit, the disciples and other followers united in prayer. How could prayer be a motivator for you when you know a difficult task lies ahead?

What inspires you to get involved in the church, or Body of Christ? Have you been praying for the opportunity to serve the Lord using your gifts? Why or why not?

2) **THEY HAD SUPPORT.** Read **Acts 1:13.**

Is the idea of working toward something alone more attractive to you than working with a group? What if the disciples had the same attitude?

When you know there is much to be done, whether at work or around the house, or even in church, what type of support do you look for? Where were the disciples looking for support and what did this group become (to one another and the world)?

How can we support each other and the church in ministry and sharing the gospel? Why is prayer so important when doing so?

3) **THEY WERE UNIFIED IN PURPOSE.** Read **Acts 1:14.**

What does this verse say about the frequency of their gatherings? Why is it important that we gather together in the same way?

When was the last time you were united with other believers praying for a particular outcome? What is something you might unite in praying for as a group in the coming weeks?

It is crucial that we tune our prayers to the heart of Jesus' desires. Like the old hymn "Come Thou Fount" says, "tune my heart to sing thy grace." What is it on God's agenda, i.e. where is He moving, that you could pray to be a part of?

Apply It:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 and 27. What is our purpose as the Body of Christ? How should we all be praying if we are called to come together on purpose and with purpose? How great could our impact be as a team united in prayer and action?

Pray:

Lord, thank you for bringing us into fellowship with you and other believers. We pray you would unite our hearts and minds for your purposes. Show us your way and guide us in your truth. We pray for strength in the Holy Spirit to accomplish what you've called us to do. Amen.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

April 22nd - BIG Tent Worship Service

May 13th - Mother's Day: Baby Dedication, VillageKids Choir singing