

PRAYER

DEVELOPING A PRAYER LIFE PART II: INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Reading Assignment

Exodus 32:1-14 and Philippians 4:6

Intro Discussion:

How has your intentional time of prayer been going since we met last? What did you find challenging? What did you find helpful?

As we continue to talk about prayer, how does prayer change things? Have you seen God answer a prayer in your life before?

How has the act of prayer changed you in the past?

Content:

What changes as we prayer?

1. Real situations in our world.

- Who can summarize the reading for today from Exodus 32?
- Moses interceded for sinful Israel. What do we mean by intercessory prayer?
 - Intercessory prayer is when we petition on behalf of someone else.
- What real-world situation changed because of Moses' prayer?
- Have you seen situations change as you have prayed for things in your life or the lives of others?

2. Me.

- As we pray for situations in our world, we will find that God will change us!
- As we pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, we find our minds and hearts begin to align with God's desire for our world.

Why do we need to pray? Can't God just act on His own?

- Yes, God can act on His own. But, His desire is to work through people.
- In Genesis, God created everything and put humans in charge to rule the world (Genesis 1:27-28).
- In Genesis 3, humans told God to "GET OUT!" In prayer we invite God back into our world.

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How can we begin to practice intercessory prayer?

- Begin to think of people in your life that need Jesus.
 - Make a list of these names.
 - Make it your goal to pray for them on a regular basis.
 - Ask God to soften their heart to the gospel, to give opportunities for you to share the truth, and for God to open the eyes of their heart. As you pray in English, pray also in the Spirit (discuss this if needed).
- Pray for countries and missionaries around the world.
- Pray for government officials. 1 Timothy 2:2 tells us to pray for kings and those in authority.
- Pray for situations that you are aware of where God's will is not being done, or where someone is going through something difficult.
 - Do you have a friend whose parents are going through a divorce?
 - Has there been a natural disaster somewhere lately?
 - Is there a crisis in the world that needs God's intervention?

Challenge:

Begin to be more intentional about intercessory prayer? Make a list of at least five people that you know that don't believe the gospel. Think of other areas that you want to see God intervene, write them down, and pray!

For next week, read Psalm 65 and 95.