



**"Is Anybody
Out There?"**

Pray Until Something Happens...

Why we pray...

Readings and Devotions for April 29-May 4

Monday, April 29 Read Psalm 4

The psalmist is obviously dealing with a difficult time but his song is one of confidence and hope. What is the root of his confidence and what strengthens him?

_____ Look closely at v.3.
What does it tell you (and indeed the whole psalm) about why we are called to pray?

*Sermon Notes from 4/28/19
"Is Anybody Out There?"*

1. God desires that we pray
regularly. !

2. We pray because...

✱...it develops proper
perspective on life, God
and ourselves.

✱...relationships are built on
communication.

✱...it increases trust and
commitment.

Tuesday April 30 Read Isaiah 55:1-11

The prophet here reminds us that all the things the world promises are not always what we need most, namely a connection with God. In what ways does prayer fulfill the command given at v.6?

_____ Why, however, should we
be careful not to think God always responds as we think He
should (hint: check vv. 8-9)?

Wednesday, May 1 Read 1 John 5:14-15

What promise is made here for those who trust in and seek to draw close to God? _____ Are there limitations on how God might respond to our requests and prayers? Why or why not? If so, what might those limitations be and why?



Thursday, May 2 Read Philippians 4:4-7

If possible, read this using some different translations, especially the Message or some other paraphrase (www.biblegateway.com will have it). How does the command to be in prayer about "everything" look in actual practice?

_____ Is prayer only for our times of need? _____ How does this passage summarize the function of prayer and the result when it is faithfully practiced?

Friday, May 3 Read Matthew 7:7-11

What does this section tell you about the nature of God? _____

_____ How often do you fail to pray for fear that God wouldn't understand or appreciate your concern?

_____ When we seek, ask and knock, what are we to be seeking? _____ For the backside of this promise and the consequences of failure to seek a relationship with God, read Matthew 7:21-23. How do these two parts work together?

Saturday, May 4 Read Psalm 141

Read this through several times. Try re-writing it in your own words and reflecting your own experiences, then pray it as your personal prayer to God. Be sure to listen for His response!



Small Group Study & Leader's Guide for May 5

Getting Started:

1. Read Psalm 4 out loud

The psalmist is obviously dealing with a difficult time but his song is one of confidence and hope. Ask: "What is the root of his confidence and what strengthens him? Have the group look closely at v.3. What does it tell you (and indeed the whole psalm) about why we are called to pray?"

2. Read 1 John 5:14-15. Ask and discuss:

What promise is made here for those who trust in and seek to draw close to God? Are there limitations on how God might respond to our requests and prayers? Why or why not? If so, what might those limitations be and why?

Going Deeper:

1. Read Philippians 4:4-7

After reading this, discuss how the passage might address the points made in the sermon about why we pray:

- Why does God desire that we pray regularly?
- In what ways (and be as specific as possible, with actual, practical and daily examples) does prayer...
 - A.) ...develop proper perspective on life, God and ourselves?
 - B.) ...nurture relationship with God through regular communication?
 - C. ... increase trust and commitment?

2. How would it look if we lived into the scriptural injunction to be in prayer on "everything (v.6)?"

3. Find a Message paraphrase of the passage from Philippians (www.biblegateway.com) and discuss how well it does (or does not) capture the meaning of the passage as you and the group understands it.

Taking it With You:

1. Before closing in prayer, have the group discuss and share their experiences, difficulties and growth in their prayer lives.