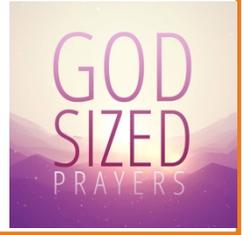




CONNEXIONPOINT C H U R C H WEEKLY



WEEK OF: 10/7/16

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 6:6 “But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.”

*****Remember to listen to this week’s sermon, review the Sermon Notes Sheet and complete the discussion questions before attending your Connection Group.**

INTRODUCTION:

Most of us spend our entire lives running away from things we’re afraid of. We forfeit the dreams God has given us on the altar of fear. Or we chase after the wrong things. We’re so busy climbing the ladder of success or the ladder of happiness that we fail to realize it’s leaning against a crumbling wall.

This week’s sermon and Connexion Group Lesson will encourage us to chase the God-ordained opportunities, the God-given passions, and the God-sized dreams with God-sized prayers.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Where is your special place of private prayer?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> my office | <input type="checkbox"/> I don’t have one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bedroom first thing in the morning | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the kitchen or dining room when no one is around | |

How specific do you think you are in your prayer life? Rate yourself?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> very specific | <input type="checkbox"/> sometime specific | <input type="checkbox"/> always general/vague |
|--|--|---|

GROUP LESSON DISCUSSION

1. What was most helpful, encouraging, or challenging from this week’s sermon?
2. Read Nehemiah 1:3-11. How did Nehemiah express the closeness of his relationship with God in these verses?

Read Nehemiah 2:1-8. How was Nehemiah bold in approaching his pagan “boss”, Persian king, Artaxerxes? What gave him such boldness?

3. Looking back through Nehemiah’s prayer, identify the ACTS pattern of prayer:

- Adoration: _____
- Confession: _____
- Thanksgiving: _____
- Supplication: _____

4. Are your prayers more heavily weighted toward

___ adoration? ___ thanksgiving ___ not sure
___ confession? ___ supplication

Why do you think you favor that aspect of prayer?

5. In what situation(s) have you prayed a God-sized dream prayer like Nehemiah’s? (If you haven’t, describe a situation in which you can image yourself doing so.)

What changes are necessary for you to pray more God-sized prayer?

next steps

As you ask God to help you take steps this week to find a time and place for private prayer, read the following verse:

- Day 1: Nehemiah 1:1-4
- Day 2: Nehemiah 1:5-11
- Day 3: Nehemiah 2:1-5
- Day 4: Nehemiah 2:6-8
- Day 5: Nehemiah 2:9-10
- Day 6: Matthew 6:5-8
- Day 7: Matthew 6:9-13