

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

February, 4 2018 sermon:

***The Power of a Praying Church: "How to get God's very best"***

**Warm up:** (15-20 minutes)

Questions for discussion:

1.) What is a "best" that stands out in your life? A best vacation? Best meal/restaurant ever? Best pet you've ever had? It can be anything...share your personal best and why it stands out in your mind.

**Digging deeper:** (20-30 minutes)

Sometimes the reason we "settle" for something that we know is less than God's very best for us, our marriage, our family is because we've tried unsuccessfully so many times to go a different direction and haven't been able to break free. In any area that a Christ-follower finds themselves stuck, here is a way to get a spiritual breakthrough:

**1.) Let God speak to you through His word.**

Read John 15:7 and 2 Timothy 3:14-17 How would filling your mind with Scripture make your prayers more powerful and effective?

**2.) Focus my attention on God.**

Read Proverbs 8:17 and Jeremiah 29:13 We talked about the importance of seeking God, not just His blessings and solutions. Think of Peter (Matthew 14), able to walk on the water until he took his eyes/attention off Jesus. Would you agree that we often are more focused on the problem or struggle than we are on God?

**3.) Express my needs and desires with sincerity.**

Read Daniel 9:3-6 We need to "tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth" when we come before God. He loves and demands honesty. Why do we even entertain the thought that we might be able to get to resolution and healing with less than total transparency. Why did you tell your children the truth was important?

**4.) Live in God forgiveness, restoration and power.**

Read Psalm 32:1-5 and Galatians 5:1-18 We can't do this ourselves...we cannot get free from our past or live as we should without the power of God's Spirit. How does a believer live in the power God provides?

**Application:** (5-10 minutes) Depending on how close your group is relationally, can you share an area where you are "stuck" or have "settled" but what to break through to victory? Pray for each other's needs.