

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

January, 28 2018 sermon:

The Power of a Praying Church: "Too busy NOT to pray"

Warm up: (15-20 minutes)

Questions for discussion:

- 1.) How are you "wired" when it comes to time? Are you a slave to the clock and a schedule or are you more the "take it as it comes" person? How's that working for you?
- 2.) What seems to dominate your life/schedule right now? Are you happy about it?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. We talked about a number of ways we could be reminded ("triggered") to pray in our daily life. Is the freedom to pray in many ways and any time a surprise to you? It is important to remember, the prayer known as "the Lord's prayer" is a pattern for prayer not a script. Read the directions the Lord's prayer takes us and answer the questions:

"Forgive us our sins": God wants me to admit my faults.

Read 1 John 1:9 and Psalm 32:1-5 Why does God want us to confess our sin to Him?

"we forgive those who sin against us": I need to release those who hurt me.

Read Ephesians 4:32, Matthew 6:14-15 and Matthew 5:7 Respond to these statements:

"Forgiveness isn't saying what they did was right, it is about getting yourself free from that pain." "You will never have to forgive someone more than God forgave you."

"When you are hurt, you only have two options: release it or re-live it."

"Lead us not into temptation": I ask God to guard my heart and mind.

Read James 1:13-15 God doesn't tempt us to sin so this request in the Lord's prayer must be the believer admitting their tendency to be tempted and fail and asking God to help us in this struggle. What is a practical way we can guard our mind?

"For Yours in the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.": I praise God for ultimate victory.

Read Proverbs 19:21 and Isaiah 14:24-27. We are all "unbelievers" to some extent. We have a hard time believing that God can and will do everything He has promised (especially for us). Jesus said we should remember God's ultimate power when we pray. What difference does it make when we pray in faith? Why pray in unbelief?

Application: (5-10 minutes) Time to share anything you've ever learned or discovered for yourself that helped you have a more consistent and fruitful prayer life.