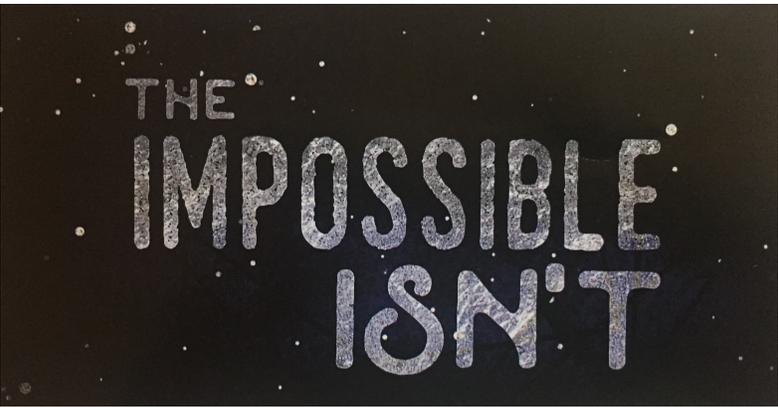


Prayer is the Path to Life in the Light

Week of January 1, 2017

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.



THE
IMPOSSIBLE
ISN'T

Message Recap:

Read Jeremiah 29:10-14

Life can be hard; we struggle in the darkness and give up instead of rising up to live in the brilliant light of Christ. We all have the choice of living in the light of our own will, or in God's will. Our own will is self-serving. It is not the light, but the darkness of a dying world. Sin deceives us into thinking that we know what we are doing, and what we want is what we need. We ignore God's will as a way of life because we think we know better. But what God wants for us is so much better, so much bigger, than anything we could ever dream up. Instead of the glory of the world, God desires to lead us into the glory of relationship with him. His plan serves the brilliant purpose of eternity. The way to know his plans, his purpose, his light, is through prayer. Choose God's will and pray with faithful passion every day because prayer is the path to life in God's light.

Pray

Father, I'm tired of living in darkness. I repent from thinking that my way is right. I repent from not seeking you in prayer every day. Help me see your light. Help me access it through prayer. Help me know what you want for me in 2017. Put a burning desire for relationship with you, through prayer and your Word, into my heart. Let nothing quench my desire for a deeper relationship with you.

Getting Started

- How often do you talk to the people you love? Compare that with how much you talk with God.
- Share a story about an amazing prayer experience you had. How was your prayer answered? What was your response?

Digging Deeper

1. We all allow darkness to overtake us. Share with your group the darkness in your life that God has revealed to you. *(Remember you are in a safe place. There is no judgement. It's important to share these kinds of things so your Connect Group can pray and help you through it.)*
2. Why do you think we struggle so much with darkness?
3. Read and discuss the following Scriptures. How can these verses change your focus from the darkness of your world to the Light of the World?

Isaiah 9:2	Isaiah 50:10-11	John 9:5	1 John 1:5
Jeremiah 29:12-14	1 Peter 2:9	Psalms 119:68	John 3:19-20
4. Prayer is the path to finding the light of God. Spend the rest of your group time in prayer. Repent from your darkness and pray for Jesus to show his light to you, to the church, and to the pastoral leadership. Pray for your prayer life, and for each member of your Connect Group by name and need.

Living Jesus

Living in your own will, relying on your own abilities, and your own wants is not living Jesus. It is living in the darkness. It's time to turn the Light on and banish the darkness in your life! Seek God, his will, his ways, through daily prayer because Prayer is the Path to Life in the Light.

Real prayer is:

1. Honest. Be real with where you are, what you feel, and how you think.
2. Vulnerable. Be transparent with God and others about where you are, your weaknesses, and what you need.
3. Believing. Trust that our Good Father hears and will answer you.

How will your prayer life change from knowing this?