

Seeking God Through Prayer

Week of January 8, 2017



SEEKING GOD THROUGH PRAYER

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.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 21:12-22

Do you think your faith is real? Do you pray? The answer to both of those questions must either be yes or no. You cannot have authentic faith without prayer, and God hates it when people claim one without the other. However, your prayer has to be authentic too. In order to know God better, and to hear his plans for your life, you have to engage with him in a meaningful way as much as possible. And as God's church, we must pray constantly. When we talk to God like this, he will begin to work supernaturally through and around our lives, and others will notice!

Pray

Lord, we all lead busy lives and sometimes it's hard to remember that, just as we would our friends and families, we must also constantly communicate with you. There are so many distractions that get in the way. Please help us to remember how important it is to stay in a prayer-mindful state, because it's the only way that we can truly know you and experience your will in our lives. Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us, so that we would never be completely cut off from you, and so that we can speak with you always.

Getting Started

- Have you ever seen or experienced something that you thought, at the time, was "supernatural"?
- Whether you believe that what happened was actually supernatural or not, what was it that made this event feel supernatural?

Digging Deeper

1. Why do you think the world has contorted the concepts of "natural" and "supernatural"?
2. Why do you think praying often feels unnatural to many people?
3. Are you ever ashamed of praying yourself? Why?
4. Many people *only* come to God in prayer when they need something. Why is this not authentic?
5. What are your intentions in the following weeks and months throughout 2017 regarding prayer?
6. If you're struggling to find time or remember to pray, what can you do to help remedy this?
7. How can the group, as a whole, pray more together?

Living Jesus

Jesus was the perfect example of prayer. He was constantly talking to God, and he was God. So, how much more should we as humans talk to our Father in heaven? We are the Church. We are the house of God. If we truly believe this, and spend time in faithful prayer, we will produce the fruit of the Spirit, and the world will recognize us by that fruit. We can make the supernatural, natural.

- Decide: We have a choice to make. Will you depend on God, or depend on yourself?
- Reflect: The more you depend on God, the more you'll realize how necessary prayer is.
- Take heart: Verse 22 in Matthew 21 says, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." God makes the impossible possible, and through him we can find the strength to get through anything.