

THE PRAYER SERIES

Week 5: Praying Together

FACILITATOR'S NOTE

Regarding COVID: While stress from the COVID-19 pandemic is still high, be sure to check in with group members with what has come to be known as **CPR** (Care, Prayer, Remember):

- **Care** refers to loving and supporting each other, from helping one another with tangible needs, rejoicing in celebrations together, and supporting personal struggles with encouragement and empathy
- **Prayer** refers to bringing our worries and needs before God and depending on him for the answers as we pray for each other, our community, and the world
- **Remember** refers to reflecting on God for who He is, what He has done in our lives, and what He is capable of doing

For more resources on care and prayer, check out the Slack channels.

Using the Discussion Questions:

- ✓ Start your group discussion with the “Check-in” question to help your members reflect back on their week and follow up on last week’s application challenge.
- ✓ Review the “Big Idea” to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week’s message.
- ✓ Read this week’s scripture passages together and guide your group through the “Discuss” questions to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week’s message.
- ✓ Move your group discussion to a deeper level by leading them through questions in “Apply”. Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the needs & dynamics of your group.

NOTE: You do not have to cover all the “Discuss” or “Apply” questions.

- ✓ Connect with God together as a group through this week’s “prayer practice”, which can be in the form of a prayer exercise or some guidance on what to pray for in relation to the message or application.

CHECK-IN	How has the practice of surrender impacted your prayer life?
BIG IDEA	Is prayer personal or is it communal? What if it’s not either/or, but both. When we take time to pray in our own closets, it will strengthen the bonds and the intimacy when we come together in community. The power of God is unleashed when we pray together. The power in corporate prayer is in its ability to unify us around God’s will.
DISCUSS	<p>Read Acts 2:42</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. As you reflect on how the early believers met together for fellowship and prayer, how is it similar or different from your life group dynamics?2. How have you been encouraged or strengthened through corporate prayer

	in the past?
APPLY How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pastor Karen shared that a few remarkable things happen when we pray together: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage one another • Our perspective is expanded • Our faith is enlarged • Our unity is elevated Which of these benefits have you experienced, and which do you desire more of for your family and/or life group? 2. Is there a practical step you could take personally, as a family, or as a life group, to give priority to praying together?
PRAYER PRACTICE (15 minutes)	<p>P.R.A.Y.</p> <p>This is a simple acrostic to use as a guide to prayer. Each of the letters in this acrostic stand for one of the key elements of prayer. Spend a few minutes on each letter:</p> <p>P = Praise and give thanks. Declare who God is and what he has done.</p> <p>R = Repent. To repent is to ask for forgiveness.</p> <p>A = Ask. Ask for what you need, and ask him to meet others' needs.</p> <p>Y = Yield. To yield is to pause in silence and listen for the voice of God.</p> <p>Debrief with the group. Let these questions guide you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What felt significant to you during this practice of prayer? • Did you find yourself focusing on an attribute of God? • During your time of silence, what did you feel God inviting you towards in your life now?