

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. What is the top prayer request in your life?
2. Has God ever answered a prayer of yours??

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

3. According to Genesis 4:26, when did people start to cry out to God?
4. Charles Spurgeon said, "True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that — it is a spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth"
5. Does your prayer life look different today than it did before the pandemic? Why or why not?
6. Please read Nehemiah 4:1-3. How did Sanballat and his friends attack Nehemiah? Pastor Ruben said, "Never determine your worth and value based on what other people say about you. Determine your worth and value based on what God's Word says about you." After the criticism, what was the first thing Nehemiah did? Please read Nehemiah 4:4?
7. Jim Cymbala said, "Prayer cannot truly be taught by principles and seminars and symposiums. It has to be born out of a whole environment of felt need. If I say, "I ought to pray," I will soon run out of motivation and quit; the flesh is too strong. I have to be driven to pray."
8. What's the difference between "ought to" and "need to?" Which one are you?
9. According to Ephesians 6:10-18, what kind of spiritual battle do we face?
 - What are we to do?
 - How is prayer important?
10. Priscilla Shirer said, "Prayer is the portal that brings the power of heaven down to earth. It is kryptonite to the enemy and to all his ploys against you."
11. Continue reading Nehemiah 4:6-8. What happened?
 - When did Sanballat attack?
 - How was it different from the first attack?
 - How did Nehemiah respond in Nehemiah 4:9?
12. Pastor Ruben shared some verses about how to pray. Based on these verses, what needs to be changed or started in your prayer life? Please read: Jeremiah 33:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:17,

John 15:7, Luke 11:5-10, Matthew 8:13, Luke 18:9-14, Matthew 6:7-8, Joshua 10:12-13, 1 Peter 5:7, John 14:13, Acts 12:5, and James 5:13-15, and 2 Chronicles 7:14.

13. Would you start to pray with your church?

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Never determine your worth and value based on what other people say about you. Determine your worth and value based on what God's Word says about you.
- Your battle is not with flesh and blood.
 - Some of you are fighting a person, when you should be fighting the devil.
 - Stop wasting your time arguing. You need to be on your knees praying.
 - That person is being used by the enemy, and they don't even know it.
 - Don't walk around sad, discouraged, and angry.
 - Just get on your knees and cry out to God.
- You need to cry out to God.
- Go deeper with Jesus. John 15:7 (NIV) 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- Don't give up on God.
- Feed your faith
- Humble yourself
- Don't give God lip service.
- Ask big, but bring the small too.
- Pray, "In the name of Jesus."
- Include your church in your prayer life.
- If you want to see a miracle, it's not going to happen because you heard 100 sermons. It's going to happen because you desperately cried out to God.