

Message Study Guide

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

Warming up

1. Is Prayer important to you? Why or why not?

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.

2. How would you define prayer?
 - a. How often do you pray?
 - b. When do you pray?
3. What are your thoughts about this quote from Timothy Keller? "Prayer is both conversation and encounter with God...We must know the awe of praising his glory, the intimacy of finding his grace, and the struggle of asking his help, all of which can lead us to know the spiritual reality of his presence."
4. Please read James 5:13-18. What are your initial thoughts?
5. Share an answered prayer with your group.
6. James makes reference to a prophet. Where can you find the story of this prophet?
7. Regarding this prophet, how many years did he pray for no rain?
 - a. What did the ravens feed him?
 - b. What did the widow never run out of?
 - c. How many evil prophets were at Mt. Carmel?
 - d. How many times did he send his servant to look for rain?
8. According to James, when should we pray?

9. What are your thoughts about this quote from Beth Moore? "There are parts of our calling, works of the Holy Spirit, and defeats of the darkness that will come no other way than through furious, fervent, faith-filled, unceasing prayer."

10. How do these passages relate to prayer? John 14:13-14; Hebrews 11:1; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 51:1-3, 17; and Psalm 24:3-4.

11. Pray.

Application

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

- James 5:13 (NIV) 13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.
- Don't confuse trouble with bad decisions. Sometimes we make bad decisions that get us into trouble. When we tell everyone the devil is attacking us. Truth is we're just making bad decisions. You need to repent and ask God to change your heart first ask him for forgiveness for those decisions. Then God will hear you.
 - If you don't pay your rent you will be evicted. The devil is not attacking you. You just didn't pay your rent.
 - If you don't study for an exam and you get a failing grade, the devil is not attacking you. You just didn't study for your exam.
- Sometimes we blame the devil for trouble that we bring upon ourselves.

- **SEEK GOD AND PRAY!**
 - **CRY OUT TO GOD FROM YOUR SOUL.**
 - **PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS**
 - **PRAY WITH AUDACIOUS FAITH**
 - **HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE GOD**
 - **LIVE OUT A RIGHTEOUS LIFE**