



Pray First Prayer of the Church

Look Back – Care, Praise, Loving Accountability, Vision – 20 mins This is a time to see how everyone’s week was. Were they successful in the previous week’s goals? Were they unsuccessful? It’s also a time to pour vision into your group. Give them the why behind things we are doing church wide. **Make sure to have your update outline with you so you can reference different points from the sermon.**

- How did you do with pray first last week? (**Pray for Blessings, Influence, Presence and Protection**)

Look Up – What does the Bible say? Practice – 20 mins

- Read James 5:16. How do you know if your prayer life is being effective? What steps can you take this week to have “effective” prayers?
- Brad said we should pray when there is prompting (by God’s Spirit), pressure or pain? What is your normal first reaction in moments like this? Read Psalm 18:6. What does this verse tell us about prompting, pressure or pain prayers?
- Read Hebrews 5:7. Discuss how the passion of Jesus resulted in his reverent submission (**You can’t pray passionately without living passionately. Jesus was passionate about God’s plan and was completely submitted to it. His prayers were about aligning his heart with God’s heart.**)
- So often people feel as if they are bugging God with their prayers. But scripture shows how persistent prayers work. Brad mention Jonah praying from inside the great fish. How does that translate to us today?
- Read Matthew 18:19. Have you ever prayed in partnership with other believers? Why do you think Jesus says what he does about this?
- Read John 14:13-14. What does Jesus mean when he says “whatever you ask”? Does that mean you can ask for a fleet of planes in his name or is he speaking to something deeper? (**Be ready to discuss what praying in his name looks like...praying His will not ours**)

Look Forward – Set Goals (For Accountability), Commission and Pray – 20 mins

Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Keep the 4 steps of prayer in place (Make prayer a PRIORITY, Set a PLACE of prayer, Act on a PLAN of prayer, Know the PERSONS of prayer).
- Continue to pray through Jesus’ prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) every day this week.
- If you are having difficulty getting started ask for help! Small is a safe place to reach out for encouragement.