8-WEEK STUDY ON COMMONLY MISUNDERSTOOD BIBLE PASSAGES

WEEK 4 IN JESUS' NAME



WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: John 14:13-14; John 15:15; John 16:23

Secondary text from this week: Matthew 6:9-13; John 17:1-5; Matthew 26:36-39

Read ahead for next week: Matthew 5:1-12

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To properly understand what Jesus was teaching His disciples about prayer when He taught them to **pray in His name**.

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: If you had one million dollars and could use it to buy anything, what would you buy?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1. How did you learn to pray? Who taught you, or who was your primary example?
- 2. Think of a time in your life that you have prayed for something and God did not answer the way you prayed. What was that experience like?
- 3. Re-read Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (remember, this was the night He was arrested and beaten before being crucified) in **Matthew 26:39 and 26:42**. How does it feel to realize that God did not give Jesus what He asked for in prayer?
- 4. After this week's message, how has your understanding of praying in Jesus' name shifted?
- 5. Think about Pastor Doug's challenge at the end of this week's message: "do your prayers sound more like a worship song or more like a Christmas list?" How would you describe your typical prayers?
- 6. Read the Lord's Prayer in **Matthew 6:9-13**. How much of the prayer is devoted to praise? How much is devoted to requests?
- 5. Pastor Doug mentioned the idea of using **Psalms** to help us find language to glorify God with in our prayers. Take five minutes and skim through a few of the Psalms (literally, just start anywhere in Psalms) and find some new worship language to use in your prayers.



PRAY

Pray for each other: Have the group leader or a volunteer pray that God's will would be accomplished in each of your lives this week.

Pray on your own: Every day this week, use a different Psalm to help you pray a "worship prayer" where you spend the whole prayer time worshipping God.

ACTION STEPS

Every time you pray this week, add the words, *in Jesus' name* at the end of your prayer. Use that as a reminder to ask yourself, "was that the kind of prayer that Jesus would have prayed?"

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