

2022 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

March 27 - Community Guide

As we continue in the Make It / Take It sermon series, our guest, Karl Romeus, helps us focus on the spiritual discipline of prayer. In the book of Acts we see the early church begin to form and as you will notice they prayed....a lot! There is so much we can learn from their prayers about how we can approach God not just with our requests, but also in adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication.

Community Prayer:

Lord, as we look more deeply into the practice of prayer, we ask for your Holy Spirit to guide our conversation. The world is a self-centered and noisy place, but we know that you have created us to live differently. You have created us to have a connection with you where we find our true hope for our lives. Open our eyes to see you in a new way through this time of study and conversation. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen

Opening Questions:

1. When and how did you learn how to pray and who taught you?
2. Is prayer a part of your daily routine? Why or why not?

Exploration: Have someone read the following scriptures aloud.

It's important to understand the context of this passage. Peter and John had just spent the night in prison because they were boldly sharing the message of Jesus. The governmental leaders didn't know what to do with them because they were not technically breaking the law, but they were causing an uproar throughout the city. The officials released them but told them to stop sharing the message. Take a look now at how Peter and John responded.

Acts 4:23-31

3. As you read this, what stands out to you about this passage?

Notice in verse 31 the key phrase...**after they prayed**. This is the catalyst moment of the early church. This prayer could have ended at verse 31 as



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it focused their attention on the truth about God, but the writer knew that the church was experiencing persecution and he was demonstrating the need to start with recognizing God and then asking for what they needed.

"Prayer is not the means to an end. In so many ways, it is the end itself."

~ Beth Moore

"Your next breakthrough may be on the other side of your next prayer."

~Karl Romeus

4. Have you ever prayed that God would do something that only he could do, but then took the matter into your own hands ? Share about that with the group.
5. Have you ever prayed that God would change a situation, but instead he changed your perspective about the situation? Share about that with the group.

Important things to remember as we pray:

- **Pray with Perspective**

Acts 4:24 "When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "**Sovereign Lord...**"

Peter and John started their prayer by acknowledging that God is sovereign, meaning that only he has true power and authority. Once we fully grasp this, we can pray with confidence that God will answer our prayers. Even if the answer isn't what we hope for, we can trust that God will answer.

We know from the scriptures that the persecution the early church faced did not go away, but instead God's people were filled with peace about sharing the gospel. They knew that they were called to build God's kingdom and they were faithful to their call.

6. Have you ever been reluctant to share your faith because of possible hostility or persecution? If so, share about that experience.

- **Pray through Pain**



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Acts 4:25-26

"Your victory might be in the valley." ~Karl Romeus

When we pray we don't always get what we ask for. Sometimes we can become discouraged thinking God is not listening or that God doesn't care. Nothing could be farther from the truth! The truth is that God sees us, God hears us and God knows what we truly need. The faith that the early church showed in times of great adversity reminds us that when we keep our focus on God, rather than our circumstances, great things can happen.

7. Have you ever had a prayer that felt unanswered? How did you handle it?

"God isn't offended by your biggest dreams or boldest prayers. He is offended by anything less. If your prayers aren't impossible to you, they are insulting to God." ~ Mark Batterson

- **Pray with Passion**

Acts 4:29-31

When we walk prayerfully into situations we are following the example of Jesus. He saved the world naked and alone on a cross. We must be careful that our confidence in who God is does not lead us to cockiness. Just like Jesus, our true kingdom work may look different than we hope or expect.

As we look closely at this passage we see that they were not asking for protection or provision but for the ability to be obedient in proclaiming the gospel.

8. Do you ever find yourself asking for personal comforts more often than you ask for a renewed heart? If so, how might you better align yourself with this scripture?



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One of the ways that we can ensure that our prayers are well balanced is by utilizing the A.C.T.S Model for our prayers:

Adoration - expressing our deep love and respect

Confession - honestly admitting our sin

Thanksgiving - sharing gratitude from the heart

Supplication - asking earnestly and humbly

9. Which of these kinds of prayers do you do well?
10. Which of these kinds of prayers are challenging for you?
11. How might your prayer life change if you incorporated more of these kinds of prayer?

The Takeaway:

“Your next breakthrough may be on the other side of your next prayer.”
~Karl Romeus

Things to remember as we pray:

- Pray with perspective
- Pray through pain
- Pray with passion

Consider using the A.C.T.S. Model of prayer this week and then share with the group how it impacted your prayer life when you get together next week.

Prayer Requests:



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