

## PRAYER INTENSIVE: WEEK ONE

ISAIAH 38 & 2 KINGS 20:1-11

### WHY PRAY?

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- FACT: GOD DOESN'T JUDGE THE COMPLEXITY OF OUR PRAYERS.
- FACT: GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS AND GOD SEES US.
- FACT: GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, NOT ALWAYS WHAT WE ASK.
- FACT: GOD CAN HEAL ANY WAY HE WANTS TO.

### WHAT IS PRAYER?

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- FACT: NO WRONG WAY TO PRAY!
- FACT: WHEN THE BIBLE IS EMPHATIC ABOUT SOMETHING WE NEED TO DO, IT IS USUALLY THERE BECAUSE IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT IS NATURAL OR EASY FOR US.

### WHY PRAY?

1. PRAY BECAUSE YOU MAY NOT \_\_\_\_\_ UNTIL YOU ACTUALLY \_\_\_\_\_.

A. IN ASKING, WE ARE LEARNING:

I. \_\_\_\_\_: IT TAKES \_\_\_\_\_ TO ASK.

II. \_\_\_\_\_: WE LEARN \_\_\_\_\_ IN WAITING.

III. \_\_\_\_\_: WE LEARN TO BE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR WHAT WE RECEIVE.

2. PRAY BECAUSE GOD \_\_\_\_\_ ON YOUR BEHALF.

3. PRAY BECAUSE PRAYER \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE WILL OF GOD.

4. PRAY BECAUSE PRAYER COMBATS \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, AND \_\_\_\_\_.

5. PRAY BECAUSE PRAYING IS THE \_\_\_\_\_.

6. PRAY BECAUSE...

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- FACT: HE DOESN'T WITHHOLD EVERYTHING UNTIL WE ASK, BECAUSE NO LOVING PARENT WOULD.
- FACT: GOD ISN'T OBLIGATED TO DELIVER TO US WHEN WE HAVE THE WRONG MOTIVES.
- FACT: PRAYER BUILDS YOUR PRAYER LIFE.
- PRAYER IS SURRENDER. PRAYER IS NOT PULLING GOT TO ME, BUT ALLOWING GOD TO PULL ME TOWARD HIM.

*"You can do more than pray after you have prayed. But you cannot do more than pray until after you have prayed." -John Bunyan*

*"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." -Max Lucado*

**A**DORATION **C**ONFESSION **T**HANKSGIVING **S**UPPLICATION

## **PRAYER INTENSIVE WEEK ONE**

### **??WHY PRAY??**

Isaiah 38 & 2 Kings 20:1-11

Text

Illus: Expiration Date

Hezekiah received this message from Isaiah when he was 39 years old.

Hezekiah was sick because of an infected boil causing sepsis in his bloodstream.

Hezekiah prays – He doesn't ask God for anything.

Doesn't plead with God.

Doesn't ask God for miracle. Doesn't negotiate healing.

His prayer appeals to the memory of GOD.

V3 – faithful, wholehearted, obedient.

Then he cries.

A very simple prayer – and God honors it!

**FACT: God doesn't judge the complexity of our prayers.**

V5 – Heard his prayers and saw his tears.

**FACT: God hears our prayers and God sees us.**

Psalm 56:8

V5-6 – God hears and adds years to his life –(15 years)

Hezekiah didn't ask for that.

And he adds that he will protect Jerusalem.

**FACT: God gives us what we need, not always what we ask.**

??Did God change His mind?? 1 Samuel 15:29

God was testing Hezekiah: (we don't like this idea!)

Hezekiah's response was what God anticipated.

1. Get mad?
2. Curse God?
3. Pray to God?

God gave Hezekiah what was His will.

**FACT: God can heal any way he wants to.**

Doctors – Natural Means – Time – Fig Newton!! V21

## ??WHAT IS PRAYER??

Prayer = connecting and communing with God.

Sometimes it's talking

Sometimes it's listening

Sometimes it's out loud

Sometimes it's from the quiet heart

**FACT: NO wrong way to pray!**

Standing, kneeling, sitting, laying, running, driving.

Eyes open or eyes closed.

Hands folded or uplifted or down at your side.

You can pray early or late or anytime in between.

**BUT WE NEED TO PRAY!**

Romans 12:12 – “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.”

Colossians 4:2 – “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – “pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ.”

**FACT: When the bible is emphatic about something we need to do, it is usually there because it is not something that is natural or easy for us.**

\*\*As we are in Valentine season – “The difference between talking about prayer and actually praying is the same as the difference between blowing a kiss and kissing.” (G.K. Chesterton)

## ??WHY PRAY??

### **1. Pray because you may not receive what God wants you to until you actually ask.**

James 4:2 – “You do not have, because you do not ask God.”

Matthew 6:8 – your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

So why do I need to ask?? Why bother?? Why doesn't God just give me what I want or need? Doesn't God anticipate everything? Why do I have to do anything? Why would God withhold until I ask?

**FACT: He doesn't withhold everything until we ask, because no loving parent would.**

**In asking, we are learning:**

**1. Humility – it takes humility to ask.**

2. Patience – We learn patience in waiting.
3. Gratitude – We learn to be grateful for what we receive.

FACT: We don't have all the information ever. God knows some things will not be good for us.

Illus: 8 Ball – Slot machine –

FACT: God isn't obligated to deliver to us when we have wrong motives.

James 4:3 – When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

So how do I know if my motives are wrong? Short answer: When you don't get what you want!

Sometimes God protects us by not answering our prayers.

## 2. Pray because God delights to show himself strong on your behalf.

Hezekiah Timeline

Isaiah 37:1-3	Assyrian leader “talks smack” about God and Judah
Isaiah 37:15-17	Hezekiah's response was to pray.
Isaiah 37:21	Hezekiah's prayer was awesome.
Isaiah 37:36	God answered Hezekiah's prayer

FACT: Prayer builds your prayer life.

Illus: Going to the gym or taking up jogging. Reading your bible. Coming to church.

2 Chronicles 16:9 – “for the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.”

Psalms 50:15 – “call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

## 3. Pray because Prayer bends YOUR will to the will of God.

I have a will and God has a will. Expound: Sometimes they align, sometimes they don't.

“your will be done” - faithless statement??

Why not go boldly before the throne!! Do!!

James 1:6-8 - Lack of faith in God = Double minded.

Asking for our will to bend to the will of God is not WEAKNESS... its submission.

Matthew 6:8 – “your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Luke 22:42 – “ Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will be yours be done.”

FACT: Prayer is surrender. Prayer is not pulling God to me but allowing God to pull me toward him.

## 4. Pray because prayer combats anxiety, fear, depression, worry and temptation.

Phil 4:6-7 – “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer & supplication (petition), with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your heart and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Matthew 26:41 – “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

#### 5. Pray because praying is the pathway to forgiveness.

1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Psalm 51:1-2 & 10-12 – “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.” – “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”

#### 6. Pray because....

If you want to get closer to God.

If you are sick and need healing.

You are worried or fearful.

You are tempted.

You are in doubt.

You are lonely.

You don't know what else to do.... Pray!

“You can do more than pray after you have prayed. But you cannot do more than pray until after you have prayed.” John Bunyan

“Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.” Max Lucado

Close with Prayer Activity:

Volleyball toss

4 Post it notes – ACTS

ACTS: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication