when you pray a gateway collection

Last week: Prayer begins with God's presence.

This week: Prayer explores God's promises.

"Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.' Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the Lord."

Genesis 13:14-18
New King James Version

The Tent:

The "tent" represents your current life and relationship with God.

The Tent:

- 1. The tent of <u>ignorance</u>.
- 2. The tent of bad motives.
- 3. The tent of passivity.
- 4. The tent of wrong priorities.
- 5. The tent of <u>promises</u>.

Prayer explores God's promises.

"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

Luke 11:1 New International Version "Magnified and hallowed be His great name into this world which He created according to His will. And may He establish His kingdom during your life."

Kaddish, Jewish Liturgical Prayer

Why I wanted to learn to pray?

- 1. Because I was ignorant of prayer.
- 2. Because I was taught that it is how we build friendship with Jesus.
- 3. Because it's how we experience His power and presence at work in our lives and in the lives of others.

Why I believe prayer is important for us?

- 1. Because I want you to desire to become more like Jesus and prayer is a joyful and beautiful way that can help us achieve that desire.
- 2. Because I want you to have a growing confidence in your ability to pray, believing anyone can do it.
- 3. Because I want your praying to be energized by the fact that anyone can make a difference through prayer.

Five observations from Luke 11:1 that motivate us to move our tent and explore the promises of God.

What can we observe from Luke 11:1?

What can we apply from our observations?

Jesus prayed and is still praying. (Hebrews 7:25)

Pray and keep praying. There are breaks, but no finish lines.

The disciples were physically close enough to hear and see Jesus pray.

(Luke 11:1, Luke 22:40)

Because of proximity in prayer, we can agree, learn, be encouraged and deepen friendships.

Prayer was common among people and religious leaders. (Matthew 6:5-8, Luke 18:9-14)

Praying doesn't mean we're weird. It means we're normal.

What can we observe from Luke 11:1?

What can we apply from our observations?

Asking questions about prayer is positive and encouraged.

A faceless, unnamed disciple cracked open the eternal gift and practice of prayer for all followers of Jesus.

Prayer is relational, so we keep learning and practicing.

We, a people of no fame, pedigree or expertise can make a difference in the lives of others by praying.

"To cultivate the spirit of prayer one needs to rely on the Spirit of Prayer."

Mark Chironna

"Prayer is God's ordained way to bring His miracle working power to bear on human need."

Wesley Duel

"Payer is partnership with God for the transformation of history."

BobBakke

"Prayer is finding out what the Father wants, then standing in Christ before Him and asking Him to do it by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Graham Cooke

How can one take responsibility for this message?

- 1. Pray.
- 2. Pray with another.
- 3. Pray the promises that God has given you.
- 4. Teach someone how to pray.
- 5. Join a small group and learn by listening and practicing.

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