

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

The Indispensable Value of Corporate Prayer

With Gerrit Nieuwoudt

February 11, 2024



What is corporate prayer?

Corporate prayer is the term used to describe praying with other people – whether in a small group, or in another church setting.

Why do we engage in corporate prayer?

- **Corporate prayer is commanded.**

Matthew 21:13 (NIV): "It is written, he said to them, my house will be called a house of prayer..."

- **Jesus is present when the church prays.**

Matthew 18:20 (NIV): "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

- **Prayer requests are often answered when believers are gathered to pray.**

Acts 12:5: "So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him."

- **Corporate prayer fosters unity in the church.**

John 17:22-23 "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity."

Psalms 133:1 "It is good and pleasant when there is unity amongst God's people."

- **Corporate prayer helps us grow as disciples of Jesus.**

Hebrews 4:14-16 "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just we as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and grace to help us in our time of need."

Big Idea: Embrace corporate prayer because it is an indispensable gift God has given us for our benefit and for His glory.

In Luke 18: 9-12 "Jesus told this story about prayer... "Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax man. The Pharisee posed and prayed like this: 'Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, crooks, adulterers, or, heaven forbid, like this tax man. I fast twice a week and tithe on all my income. But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his chest and said: 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God."

Please send your prayer requests to prayer@sequoiachurch.org.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Indispensable Value of Corporate Prayer
3 of 5 - February 11, 2024

- 1) Last week we looked at The Centrality of Prayer in the early church. What were you able to apply from this message this week? What has God been saying to you in this regard?
- 2) Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?
- 5) Read Matthew 21:13, Matthew 18:20, Acts 12:5, and John 17:22-23. What value do we see in corporate prayer from these passages? How does this encourage and challenge you today?
- 6) How does corporate prayer reveal our dependency on God as a church and as an Impact Community?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you today through this message?
- 8) In what ways can you seek to grow in the discipline of corporate prayer? What specific steps is God asking you to take today? Take time to practice corporate prayer together.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Indispensable Value of Corporate Prayer
#3 of 5 - February 11, 2024

- 1) Last week we looked at The Centrality of Prayer in the early church. What were you able to apply from this message this week? What has God been saying to you in this regard?
- 2) Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?
- 5) Read Matthew 21:13, Matthew 18:20, Acts 12:5, and John 17:22-23. What value do we see in corporate prayer from these passages? How does this encourage and challenge you today?
- 6) How does corporate prayer reveal our dependency on God as a church and as an Impact Community?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you today through this message?
- 8) In what ways can you seek to grow in the discipline of corporate prayer? What specific steps is God asking you to take today? Take time to practice corporate prayer together.