

A PRAYING LIFE

What is the series about?

In this short series we'll be looking at what it looks like to have a praying life. Whatever our background or worldview most of us have at one time or another prayed. You may have been in a desperate situation or just thrown out a few words in vague hope. Over the summer we'll see what the Bible teaches us about prayer today.

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Recommended Reading

A Praying Life

Paul Miller



A PRAYING LIFE

Title: Praying to the Sovereign God

Speaker: Ben Coleman (City West) Bible Ref: Ephesians 1:15-23

Overview

Paul had total confidence in the sovereign plans of God being outworked in the Ephesians lives. So does that mean Paul forgets about prayer? Far from it! The very foundation of Paul's prayer was the sovereign grace and promises of God. And it was this that gave him the faith to cry out to God to reveal himself to the Ephesians in a deeper way. He was coming to the God who had chosen them before the creation of the world to be his children, and it was this that led him to pray that they might know their Father in a deeper way. He directed his prayers in line with what God was sovereignly doing and had promised to do.

Questions to help your group understand the truth preached

On Sundays we hear God's word preached and as we listen well we trust that God is changing us in the moment. Use these questions to further explore the truth that was taught.

1. What can we learn from Ephesians 1:3-11 about God's plan of grace?
2. How did the fact that God is sovereign and in control shape Paul's prayer?
3. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our passage?

Questions to help your group apply the truth preached

When applied, God's Word will enable us to love God and to love others. These questions will help your group apply the truth understood in a way that leads to transformed lives.

1. What does it look like to ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten our hearts? (Verse 18)
2. What does it look like for us to know God better? Day by day and year by year? (Verse 17)
3. How do we keep the hope we have in Jesus central to our daily lives? (Verse 18)

Questions to help your group dig deeper

Having understood the truth preached, and explored how it can be applied to your lives why not dig a little deeper and ask your group the following questions:

1. What other promises of God can you think of that we can use to fuel our prayers?
2. Why does Paul choose the resurrection to show that God's power is incomparable? (Verse 19-20)
3. In light of the Old Testament, why is it radical for the new covenant to promise that every Christian will know God? (Hebrews 8:10-13)