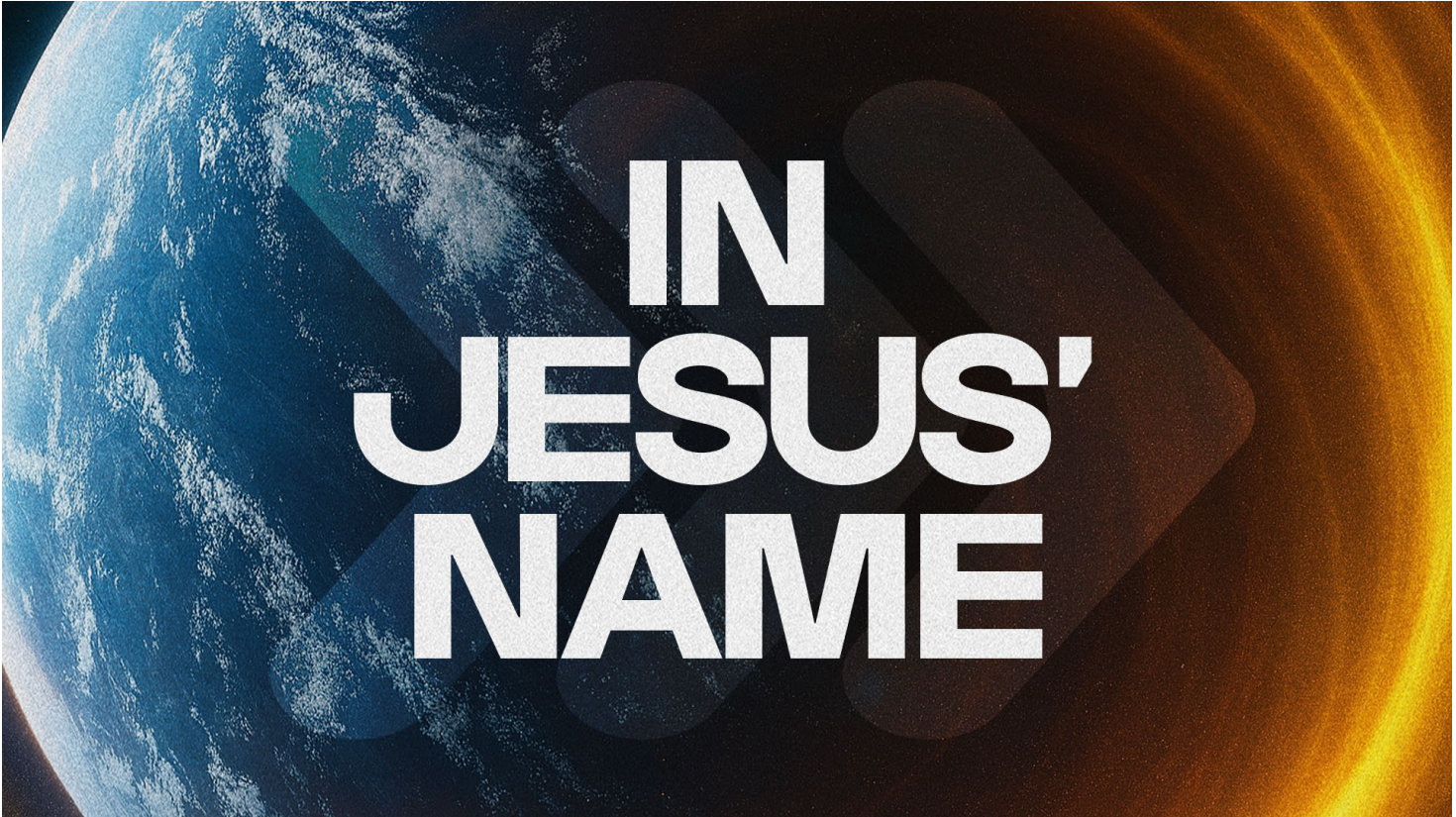




IN JESUS' NAME

Week 3

The Community Altar

Use this guide to have deeper discussion with your group.

This Week's Reading

Chapter 6 (pages 89 – 104)

**Reading does not have to be completed before meeting as a group but should be completed within each week.*

Overview

Acts 2:42-47

*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, **and in prayers**. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. **So continuing daily with one accord in the temple**, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. **And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.***

The Church's Priority of Prayer: *How can you (as part of the church) keep prayer a priority?*

- The disciples stayed in prayer (Acts 1:13-14)
- The church started in the middle of a growing prayer meeting (Acts 2:1-4)
- The church continued in prayer (Acts 2:42-45)

The Church's Power of Prayer: *Prayer gives the church power. What keeps you from accessing the power of prayer?*

Acts 4:24, 31

*When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God...After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were **all** filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

- At the threat of persecution, the church prayed.
- Heaven holds every prayer.
- Heaven responds with fire.
- The strength of the prophetic voice of the church is directly tied to the practice of its prayer.
- The Holy Spirit always responds to a praying church with manifested power.

The Church's Promise through Prayer: *What promises have you seen God fulfill when His people pray? Use scripture and real-life examples.*

- Peter freed from prison (Acts 12)
- Paul and Silas freed from prison (Acts 16)
- When we stay connected in prayer, we stay connected to the authority of Jesus' name.
- When the church has a culture of prayer:
 - o People are freed from bondage and oppression
 - o Societies change, families are healed
 - o Salvations multiply
 - o Miracles increase

Application to Developing a Community Prayer Altar

Steps to developing a Community Prayer Altar (reference page 166 of the book for more in-depth discussion around each step):

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am with them." Matthew 18:20

1. Participate in or begin a regular prayer service.
2. Search the Bible for things to pray about.
3. Practice praying out loud.
4. Be open to the Spirit.

Prayer Requests

Take prayer requests and pray for one another.

Next week's reading: Chapter 7 (pgs 105 – 120)