

What are "The Prayers?"

- "The Prayers" are the _____ of God's people.
(Acts 2:42)
- We say "The Prayers" when we pray _____, or pray _____ prayers as individuals.
(1 Timothy 2:1; Matthew 6:9-13)
- "The Prayers" are part of how God's people _____ in his _____.
(Isaiah 56:7, Joel 2:17)
- "The Prayers" are part of the _____ of God's people.
(Psalm 141:2, Hebrews 13:15)

Why do we offer "The Prayers?"

- "The Prayers" are how God's people _____ the _____.
(Genesis 12:3, 20:17; Jeremiah 29:7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- God wants us to _____ in reconciling the world to him.
(Genesis 20:7)
- God has promised to respond in _____ to the prayers of his people.
(John 14:13-14, Matthew 18:19-20)

What do "The Prayers" do?

- The Prayers of the Church _____ us to _____.
- The Prayers of the Church shape our _____ and _____.
- The Prayers of the Church _____ the _____ of God.
(Joel 2:15-17)
- The Prayers of the Church _____ the _____ of the nations.
(1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Conclusion

- God _____ about the requests of his people.
- God _____ on the requests of his people.
- God _____ the _____ through the requests of his people.

Small Group Questions

1. GETTING STARTED:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- Have you ever experienced a clearly-answered prayer? What happened? Did you have anyone else pray for it?

2. INTO THE BIBLE (READ ACTS 12:1-18)

- How did the church respond to Peter's arrest? How else could they have responded? How would you have wanted to respond?
- How did God answer their prayers?
- Read v. 9 and v. 15. Is this how Peter and the church expected God to respond? What do you think they were actually expecting?
- Why do you think God answered these prayers in such an unexpected and unusual way?

3. GOING DEEPER

- What should we include in the Prayers of the Church? What does God tell us to pray for in scripture?
(If you're not sure, look up these passages: Psalm 9:1; Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 6:28; Romans 10:1, 15:5-6; Ephesians 6:19; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Hebrews 13:3, 7; James 1:5)
- Are any of those things hard to pray for? Why?
- How would praying for all of those things change our community? How would it change us as we pray?

4. PRAYER

- Have each group member choose a prayer topic from the passages above and pray for it.