



Prayer of Intercession Prayer Posture (Dec 9)

Series Summary: So often we only see prayer as a one way street of us going to God to ask for what we want, but prayer is so much more. Prayer is a conversation with God where we talk, listen, and spend time with Him. This series will discover aspects of our prayer life that help us see prayer in a fresh new way.

Big Idea/Question: God loves us dearly and he hears us when we pray. These two truths should lead us to passionately take our request to God with confidence.

GET THEM TALKING

What have you prayed and asked God for? How did God respond?

VIDEO TEACHING

Intro: In this series, we have talked a lot about what our prayer life can look like outside of simply asking for things. But that does not mean that prayers where we request something of God (intercession) is bad. Especially when done the right way and with the right motives.

Luke 11:5-8 Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; **6** a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ **7** And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ **8** I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

Do not be afraid to pray with persistence

Luke 11:9-10 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **10** For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Not a Genie in a bottle: This is not saying that God will grant our every wish like a genie in a bottle. God may say YES, NO, or NOT RIGHT NOW. Expand on this idea.....

Luke 11:11-13 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? **12** Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13** If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

The proper mindset: Because God is a loving Father we approach with confidence and reverence.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (from video)

Russell mentioned that it is important to have the right mindset when we pray (confidence and reverence). Why is that mindset important when it comes to praying to God?

What are some bad mindsets that we must avoid when asking God for anything in prayer?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Philippians 1:9-11 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, **10** so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

How do our prayer requests show what we really care about and want in life?

What did Paul's prayer request in Philippians 1:9-11 say about what he valued and cared about? (He cared about other people and their spiritual growth. He wasn't praying for His own needs but for their needs.)

What happens when we pray for others? (God works and we love people more because we are praying for them.)

What are some ways that we can pray for the needs of others and not just for our own needs?

PRAYER ACTIVITIES

Leader Note: Do not feel like your group must do all of these prayer activities throughout this series. Instead, I would pick one per week and dedicate a large part of the group to it.

Leader Note: The Prayer activities are mirrored to the prayer topic of the week. However, any of these prayer activities are a great way to end any small group discussion. Meaning you can use the prayer activities to end the group all throughout the spring.

Prayer Plate: Take one of the plates off the cart. Students write down their prayer requests on the plate. Once each student has their prayer request on the plate, pass the plate around the group as each student prays for one of the prayer requests on the plate. Or students can take a picture of the plate and pray for the various prayer requests written down on the plate.

Leave a prayer & take a prayer: Students write down their prayer requests (big or small) on a piece of paper. Students then take one prayer request from another student to pray for throughout that week. These prayers can be anonymous.

Prayer request from the mission field: We will have a stand ('tree') set up in the atrium with the prayer of IMB (International Missions Board) missionaries. Students can take as many prayer requests as they like to pray for throughout the week. Russell will have this set up throughout the series.

Praying for the empty chair: The idea here is that we pray for the person (new student in the group) that will be sitting in that chair next week.