



# CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FROM 1/2/22

### SERMON SUMMARY

Prayer is not something that is hard to do, in the sense that even a child can do it. It can, however, be considered a difficult thing when we recognize that each of us can struggle to pray consistently. The fact is, there's power in prayer, but Satan will work overtime to keep us from praying. This week, we begin a four-week series discussing some essential spiritual disciplines, and this first sermon focuses on reasons we can be confident in prayer. Prayer is simple; but it takes intentionality and understanding. It requires us to acknowledge our own weaknesses and need for God's strength; but it also requires a reminder that God's power is accessible to those who come to Him through faith in Christ.

**Key Passages:** Hebrews 4:14-16

*Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the "Grow" section of our study.*

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

**KNOW**—Spend some time finding out how everyone's week has gone. *The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or "connection" activity or with questions appropriate to your context.*

*What is something that you are thankful for this week?*

*What is something that is causing you stress or concern this week?*

*Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?*

**GROW**—Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.

*Ultimately, what is the reason the text tells us we can have confidence in prayer?*

*What does Jesus do as our High Priest?*

*How does this text emphasize both Jesus' divine and human natures? Why do these two natures make Him a good High Priest?*

*In what ways does Jesus understand our sin? In what ways is He distinct from us in regard to sin?*

*What does it look like to "come boldly to the throne of our gracious God?"*

*What are some things that hinder your ability to come boldly to the throne of God?*

*How does this verse give you confidence to overcome the hinderances to intimate prayer?*

*How can we approach God in prayer reverently and boldly at the same time?*

*In your own prayer life which do you tend to sacrifice, reverence or boldness? How will you be more intentional to find balance in that?*

*This week, Pastor Brett mentioned the related discipline of fasting. Have you ever added a time of fasting to your prayer life? If so, talk about your experience.*

**GO**—Talk through ways you can put what you've learned into practice.

*Pastor Brett made the statement that prayer shouldn't be something we have to do, but rather something we get to do. Which of these two perspectives most accurately describes where your prayer life is right now?*

*How does your understanding of the gospel give you confidence to approach God in prayer?*

*How would you express to an unbeliever the unique relationship we have with God because of Jesus, our High Priest?*

