

Life Group Lesson

“Unlocking Prayer and Fasting”

September 18, 2011

Below are verses and questions from the weekend message. The goal is not to read every verse and ask every question but to use them to bring about discussion, study, interaction, and growth of your group members to be the church of Jesus Christ.

READ

James 5:16

ASK

1. What goes hand-in-hand with prayer in the first part of this verse?
 2. Do you have any sins you have not confessed to the Lord?
 3. Are there sins you need to confess to someone else so that you will have accountability and someone praying for and with you in this matter?
 4. In the last part of the verse, what kind of prayers are powerful and effective (NIV)?
 5. Do your prayers feel powerful and effective? Why do you think they are or are not?
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READ

Romans 8:33; Romans 3:24; John 15:16 and John 16:23-24

ASK

1. Righteous prayer is based not on our own righteousness but on the righteousness of Jesus (Isaiah 64:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 2. If a righteous man has powerful and effective prayers, how then are we made righteous?
 3. According to John 15:16, what kind of person (answer: chosen and appointed) does the Father give whatever is asked in Jesus name?
 4. Do you get whatever you ask? What is the condition in last part of John 15:16?
 5. Should we ask God for answers to prayer if we are not submitting, obeying, and growing in Him?
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READ

John 15:7 and Hebrews 4:12

ASK

1. Effective prayer is based not on our own authority but on the authority of the Word of God.
 2. What is the condition listed in John 15:7 for effective prayer?
 3. The Word of God discerns your thoughts and intention in your prayer life – your motives. How are prayer and the Word connected for an effective prayer life? (i.e. can you pray and not read the Word? Can you pray something contrary to the Word and expect results?)
 4. Are you abiding in the Word daily? If not, why? How do you change that?
 5. Have you based your prayers on your own authority or the authority of God's Word?
 6. Are you consulting the Word during your prayer requests or are you ignoring it?
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READ

Psalm 84:11; Matthew 6:33; Romans 8:28

ASK

1. Fervent prayer is based not on our own comforts or preferences but on the purpose of glorifying God.
 2. According to Psalm 84:11, what does the Lord give us? What does He withhold from us? Who are the “us” (last of the verse)?
 3. Matthew 6:33 says to seek God’s kingdom first. Are you doing that? Or, are you just seeking things to be added to you? What is the correct order for answered prayer?
 4. Romans 8:28 is often half-quoted. You sometimes hear people quote the first half and leave off the “to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Are you guilty of this?
 5. How does God know you love Him? How do others know that?
 6. To what purposes of God are you called?
 7. Can you know your purpose and calling without loving (growing intimately, discipleship, Christ-likeness, repentance, obedience, etc.) God?
 8. Can you be about the wrong purpose and think it is God’s purpose?
 9. Are all things working together for your good?
 10. Have you prayed about them? Does the Word have answers for you that you have missed?
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On a scale of 1-10 for the purpose of evaluating your prayer life, are your prayers:

1. Righteous? – based on Jesus’ righteousness
2. Effective? – based on the authority of God’s Word
3. Fervent? – based on the purpose of glorifying God

Spend time in prayer groups (groups of 2, 3, or 4) and seek God for a more righteous, effective, and fervent prayer life. Make sure you pray for every person in the group.