

DOES PRAYER WORK?

Text: Psalm 31

January 16-22, 2010



Start It

(10 minutes)

Leader:

Welcome everyone and ask everyone to share their name, family situation, what brought them to Glenkirk and what keeps bringing them back.

Go over the ground rules for your time together:

When will you meet?

Where? Will you rotate homes?

What about refreshments?

If some in your group have children what if any special arrangements need to be made?

Discuss confidentiality!!!

Discuss the need for group participation and to begin and end on time.

Discuss preparation for each week: questions on the web, devos ...



Share It

(30 minutes)

This will take at least 30 minutes but it is a good exercise for groups to get to know one another and also for groups who have been together for a long period of time.

Note: Be sure to have some extra paper for this exercise.

1. When Jim first began this sermon series he talked about how he has seen people chart out their life on a graph. They draw out a timeline of their life and, at important turning points, they draw a little picture or make a little note that describes what happened there. When they moved, they put a date and draw a house. If they got married, they draw a heart. When they became a Christian, they put a cross. If they went through depression, they draw a valley.

Take a few minutes and do this exercise. Include the high and low points of your life that you are willing to share. Make sure you include any significant answers to prayers that stand out.

2. Jim then encouraged us to draw a line into the future. He said he wanted us to do some spiritual goal setting. He invited us to draw out a graph of our life and what's to come (next week, next year, five years from now). We can't know for sure what the future holds, but we can always set goals. Draw out the line on your piece of paper into the future and think about what kind of influence you want to have on the world for God. What will need to take place in your life for this to happen?
3. Take some time and share your graphs with each other.



Video

(25 minutes)

1. Begin this section by talking about this week's sermon. What was one thought that stood out to you?
2. What do you hope to gain from this sermon series on worship?
3. If you had never attended a worship service, what do you believe your first impressions would be upon attending?
4. Play the video. This will take approximately 10 minutes. What is one thought that stood out to you in the video?



Study It

(20 minutes)

Turn to Psalm 31

1. What does this Psalm teach us about God?
2. What does this Psalm teach us about prayer?
3. How does our concept of God affect our prayer life?

Read Matthew 6:5-14

1. What natural divisions do you observe in the Lord's Prayer? What is the focus of each?
2. Note Acts 4:23-31. Do you see any similarities with how the disciples prayed and the model Jesus taught? What are they? What was the result of their prayers?
3. Note other New Testament prayers? How do they resemble or not resemble the prayers that you pray on a regular basis? What might you glean from your answer?
 - a. See Ephesians 1:15-23
 - b. Philippians 1:9-11

- c. Colossians 1:3-14
- d. John 17

Prayer

1. What questions do you have about prayer?
2. What are you pleased or encouraged about regarding your personal prayer life?
3. Richard Foster believes that prayer is more about changing us than changing situations. Do you agree or disagree?
4. Why might prayer with two or more people be so powerful? What does it mean to agree in prayer?



Live It

(5 minutes)

1. What keeps you from praying more?
2. Do you want to learn to pray more? How can the group hold you accountable this next week? You might experiment by beginning the day with five minutes of prayer and setting aside five minutes at night for prayer. Do this the first week and slowly try and work up to 10 minutes at either end of the day.



Pray It

(10 minutes)

Conclude with prayer

1. Share any major requests the group can be praying about this next week.
2. As you close in prayer—practice Adoring God. Go around the circle praying through the alphabet. Have the first person begin with “A” and say something about God using a word that begins with “A”. Then move to the next person who says one word that begins with “B”. Keep this up around the circle as many times as it takes to get through the alphabet.
3. The leader then closes in prayer keeping in mind the requests shared earlier.