

Week 3 | April 22 Sermon

Community:

To truly understand what it means to be real and to do it may take time, but we believe that when you do, God will use you and the story that He is writing with you to make great things happen. In these shorter-term sermon series groups, we don't have time set aside for each member to share their stories. But, we hope that as you build relationship, the sharing of your stories will happen.

You may be eager to let others know who you are...or the thought may fill you with anxiety.

The members of your group have chosen to be in community—a kind of community that's different.



Like you, they long for a community that spurs them into growth and a meaningful relationship with God and others. *Challenge yourself to be open and transparent. Let these people know who you really are.*



BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Luke 11:1-13

Jesus is our model and before he began his mission and ministry he spent time with the Father in prayer.

Start every day with a prayer asking God,
"How do you want me to bless the world today?"
Respond to His promptings and bless three people this
week – at least one of whom is not a member of our church.

SANCTUARY:: Tom Vander Well

- Which is more descriptive of your relationship with Jesus (which is closer to your experience?): A) He's like a friend I meet with fairly regularly (e.g. an hour on Sunday and a few minutes each morning), but then I don't think much about it between appointments B) He's a constant companion and I'm almost al ways aware of His presence, prayer for me is like a steady stream of conversation in my spirit with Jesus throughout the day.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says "pray continually" sometimes translated "pray without ceasing." How do you understand that in relation to our common notion of reserving prayer for specific times (e.g. before meals, at church, before sleep, daily quiet time)?
- Are there areas of your life where you feel or believe God is "off limits" or "not allowed" for one reason or another? Please explain.
- Have you ever spent a significant time in prayer before making a big decision? Would you be willing to share the story, how prayer affected your decision, and how you'd describe the results in 20/20 hindsight?
- Have you ever experienced what you would consider a "Divine Appointment"? Would you be willing to tell the story. What was it that made you realize that the encounter was more than simply a coincidental meeting?



Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. **Hebrews 10:24-25**

AUDITORIUM:: Keith Korver

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. How do you pray? Who modeled out prayer for you?

Do you begin your prayer times with praise to God which puts us in the right frame of mind and spirit to make requests from God our Father? (Chain Reaction of Praise idea)

Which of the phrases in the Lord's prayer give you most joy? Which phrase causes you to pause?

Why is Jesus so demanding for the need to have a forgiving heart? What challenges and joys have you experienced forgiving yourself and others?

Jesus tells us that if we pray, the Father will send us the Holy Spirit who will teach us all things. What potentials does this reality have for your life to be a blessing to others?