

MESSAGE GROUPS - PRAYER UNSCRIPTED - JUNE 3

LEADERSHIP THOUGHT:

To fully live out the vision that God has for our lives and our church, we have to engage God in deeper levels of prayer. Prayer unlocks God's power, presence, and authority in our lives. But prayer is not powerful when we just talk about it - prayer is powerful when we engage God in it. What does an authentic prayer life look like? How can we experience the power and presence of God in deeper ways?

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever seen the power of prayer demonstrated in your life or the life of someone near you? Share a story about prayer with the group.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read about **Colossians 4: 2-4**.

- **Q:** *What do you think it would look like to be "devoted" to prayer? Why would Paul put such a high emphasis on encouraging the early church to pray?*

The early church and disciples knew the power of prayer because they had seen it change things around them. They acknowledged prayer as the way to access God's power, presence, and authority. We often only truly devote ourselves to prayer in times of crisis, not as a part of our everyday lives.

- **Q:** *What situations most often drive you toward prayer? Do you believe anything is possible in prayer?*
- **Q:** *To know more of God in prayer requires us to make trades - trades of our time, priorities, and desires - what "trades" do you think are necessary in your life to go deeper with God in prayer?*

A large part of a flourishing prayer life is the ability to discern God's voice and leading in your life.

- **Q:** *What do you think it means to "hear from God" or to "hear the voice of God"? Have you had a time where you feel that God spoke to you?*

CLOSE

Growing in prayer and hearing the voice of God requires that you spend time with Him. It matters that you approach your relationship with God just like any important relationship in your life - it requires consistent time and conversation to grow in intimacy and closeness.

Leaders - as you feel led specifically for your group, close in a time of prayer. *One idea is to pray either individually or as a group for your desire to know more of God and experience Him in your prayer life. What are the things you would ask God for you if you truly believed He was listening and ready to answer?*