

MESSAGE GROUPS - MOTHERS DAY 2018

LEADERSHIP THOUGHT:

Though this message was geared specifically towards Moms, the **practice of praying with perseverance for the areas God has given us influence** is meaningful to everyone. Keep this in mind as you lead your group through this discussion.

MESSAGE OVERVIEW:

In this message on prayer, PK explores the life of Mary and what we can learn about how she lived and how she prayed. Her life reveals two truths about prayer that apply to everyone. First, that it matters who prays, and second - that God grants trampled ground.

ICE BREAKER

In the spirit of Mother's Day, share a favorite story or memory you have about your Mom growing up. Or if you are a Mom, share your favorite thing about being a mother!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

There is something to be said for making the most of a fresh start. **Share about a time in life when you have needed a fresh start. How does it feel to be given a second chance when you need it most?**

- Read aloud Psalm 1:1-13
- *Question:* What stands out to you about this passage? What does it say about God's offer to us?

God has outlined a way for us to "get life right", and God knows that "almost right" will never lead to the full life that God has. Almost right is filled with problems, but God's way for us is always better.

The life of Mary, the mother of Jesus, demonstrated what it's like to "get life right".

- Read aloud Luke 1:46-51, notice how Mary gives adoration, praise, and thanks.
- *Question:* What does this "song" reveal about how Mary did life? What about life do you think she got right based on these verses?

If you fast forward in the story of Mary to Acts 1:14, you see that towards the end of Mary's life she still **got it right**. She modeled a life of consistency and a commitment to prayer.

What we see through the life of Mary and her commitment to a life of prayer is:

1. It Matters Who Prays

Where God gives you responsibility, he gives you authority.
Where he has given you first responsibility, he hears you first!
Where God entrusts you - he hears you most!
Your prayers matter...

- Like Mary, do not underestimate the power of your prayers.
- *Question:* Where has God given you authority and influence? How should you pray differently for those areas in your life? (ie: your family, workplace, those in your sphere of influence)

2. God Grants Trampled Ground

Part of God's design for how we pray centers around our ability to **persevere**. God tells us throughout Scripture that we are to seek, knock, ask, and to keep at it. This is how the Kingdom of God works; God honors our prayers when we persevere in seeking him in prayer.

- *Question:* Have you ever experienced frustration in prayer when you feel God isn't responding? What do you think it means to persevere in prayer?

We often pray small and weak prayers because we don't think God can. We get cautious in prayer, we have a small view of ourselves and consequently, we pray small. But we must see rather God's invitation to praying bolder prayers.

- *Question:* What tends to be your standard disposition when you pray? Are you bold in praying to a big God with no limits **or** do you hold things back?

WRAP UP / CLOSE

- **Spend 5-10 minutes praying for your kids, your spouse, or a loved one.** (As a leader, determine if you will challenge each person in your group to pray aloud, or if you will lead this moment by opening and closing in prayer and leaving space for anyone who may want to pray silently or out loud in between.)
- Reflect on the places that God has given you responsibility. **Write down 1 or 2 main areas that God may have given you influence in prayer.** Where do you need to persevere in prayer to "trample ground"? Pray for these areas this week. (If you don't pray on a regular basis, set a reminder to pray for a few minutes a couple of days this week; if you pray some, challenge yourself to pray daily this week)