

MESSAGE GROUPS - I DONT PRAY

LEADERSHIP THOUGHT:

Letting go of the need to have control over our own lives is very difficult if not seemingly impossible. This week PK dives deep into the power that control has over us and how it affects our prayer life. Be ready to share with your group about how you have learned to surrender control to God. How have you seen that the power of prayer is in getting on God's agenda *instead* of expecting that He will get on yours? What are examples of times that you surrendered through prayer and how did God use the outcome to grow your trust?

MESSAGE OVERVIEW:

Why should we pray? We pray because we are in life battles that we cannot control. When we learn to pray "hands up" we are really surrendering control to God instead of taking control ourselves. This week in a message from PK in 2011, we discussed and reviewed the prayer life of Moses and how his discovery of prayerful surrender helped bring victory to the Israelites.

ICE BREAKER

Have you ever met someone with bad control issues? What was it like being around them?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

As Christians we aren't promised a life that is problem free; in fact, there are times where being a follower of Jesus means we often face more problems [*i.e persecution of our faith*]

As you begin your discussion, **start off by talking about this statement from PK:**

"Its not that we the people who follow Christ have different pressures or problems than anyone else, we have the same pressures and problems, its that we have a different peace and a different power."

- **Question:** How does knowing that you have have a different power change the way you face your life battles?
- **Question:** How do you "tap into" the peace and the power that God offers? Share a prayer of your own that you say when you find yourself in the midst of a battle.

Read Exodus 17:10 -13 as a group:

"So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword."

When things in life seem to be going your way it's easy to "lower your hands" and stop surrendering to God.

- **Question:** Just like Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands up, how can you find ways to keep your hands up in prayer?

Talk about the quote from Hudson Taylor: *"prayer is transacting business with God whether on ones own behalf or on behalf of those whom you seek Gods blessing."*

What you need to know: **Prayer is not how we secure control, its how we surrender control.**

- **Question:** Many times we pray when things are not going our way. What posture towards God do you find yourself having when you pray during tough times? One of **surrender** or one of **control**?

Read Philippians 4:4 -7 as a group:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- **Question:** What do you think Paul means when he says "Do not be anxious about anything?" Is that really possible? If yes, how can you rid yourself of all anxieties?

What you need to do: **"Hands up" prayer:** Putting your hands up is a symbol of surrender so when we pray to God we should pray with a "hands up" mentality.

- **Question:** How will you remind yourself to continually surrender during prayer? *(this could be something as simple as actually praying with your hands raised)*

WRAP UP / CLOSE

As a small group, take some time to talk about where you need to answer the question, "where do I need to surrender to God through prayer?" *Feel free to discuss this question as a group, or ponder this question individually.* Take this opportunity to pray over your group, and have your group pray for each other. It may be a good practice to end the session with all hands in the air saying a prayer of surrender.