



# MAY 5

## PURSUING GOD

### THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER



#### GETTING STARTED

This weekend we continued our *Priority of Prayer* series and learned how we can take some very practical steps to grow in prayer.

As you begin the study, take some time to read and meditate on this verse:

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*



#### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. As you think back over the last two weekend messages and all the prayer activities this week, what is your biggest takeaway from the week of prayer?
  - a. Have any of the prayer practices we highlighted—prayer walks, fasting, praying Scripture, the Lord's Prayer, and a prayer language—made an impact on your prayer life? If so, please explain.
  - b. If you chose to participate in the fast, how did the fast go for you? Did you sense God's presence in a more tangible way, or did it feel more like an act of obedience? Explain.
  - c. Have you tried any new prayer practices because of this series that you want to keep exploring and practicing? If so, what did you find helpful about praying in these new ways?
2. Read **Luke 18:1-8**.
  - a. How has persistence played a part in your prayer life? Where have you seen the fruit of being persistent in prayer?
  - b. As you have persisted, how have you experienced God answering your prayers?

3. This weekend Michael shared that we need to *Start ... With Your Schedule* when it comes to prayer.

a. Are there any changes you need to make to your schedule to make prayer a priority?

b. If we simply add prayer to our already busy lives, chances are it may not happen. Instead, we need to subtract something else. What activities could you subtract from your schedule to create more space for you to pursue God in prayer?

4. One of the suggestions from this weekend's message was *Experiment ... And See What Works*. Have you ever experimented with new approaches to your prayer life? If so, what worked well? What didn't work for you?

a. Do you know anyone who has a healthy, robust prayer life? What do you love about their prayer life? What might it look like for you to experiment with some of the prayer practices that work for them?

b. If you do have a regular rhythm of prayer, how did you discover what works best for you?

5. Michael's third principle this weekend was that we need to *Keep It ... Real*. Read **Luke 18:9-14** and **Jeremiah 15:15-18**. There are countless times we read about someone in Scripture praying to God in incredibly real and honest ways. Do you find it easy or hard to be radically honest with God in prayer? Explain.

6. What are some of the biggest distractions that you encounter when praying? What did you think of Michael's principle to *Pray ... Your Distractions*? What would that look like for you?

7. As we learned this weekend, when it comes to prayer, we need to *Learn ... To Listen*. As we bring this study to a close, spend some time asking God if there's anything He wants to say to you. If He brings anything to mind, take a few moments to write those things down in your journal. Is there anything He is prompting you to pray about? Take a couple minutes to pray about that.