



COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Prayer is not optional for Christians - it's central to our faith.

HEAD CHANGE: We should approach God boldly and directly in prayer, bringing all our needs before Him.

HEART CHANGE: Prayer includes both petition (for ourselves) and intercession (for others).

LIFE CHANGE: Jesus teaches us to pray with both intimacy ("Our Father") and reverence ("hallowed be your name").

OVERVIEW

In this powerful exploration of the Parable of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10, we're challenged to reexamine our understanding of what it truly means to be a neighbor. This familiar story takes on new depth as we consider its racial and social implications, pushing us beyond our comfort zones. The key insight here is that being a good neighbor isn't just about proximity, but about radical love and sacrifice. We're called to both 'gospel messaging' and 'gospel neighboring' - not just sharing the good news, but living it out in tangible ways. The story's characters - the traveler, priest, Levite, and Samaritan - each represent different aspects of our own hearts and choices. But the most profound revelation is that Jesus himself is the ultimate 'Good Samaritan' in our lives. This perspective transforms how we view our own ability to love others sacrificially. As we reflect on this, we're invited to see the church as a place of radical hospitality, much like the inn in the parable. How might this change the way we engage with those around us, especially those different from us?

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The speaker mentioned several reasons why people don't pray, including busyness, doubts about efficacy, and timidity. Which of these do you relate to most? Are there other reasons you struggle with prayer?
2. How does Jesus' teaching on prayer (the Lord's Prayer) balance intimacy with God and reverence for Him? How can we cultivate both in our prayer lives?
3. The sermon emphasized approaching God boldly in prayer. What holds you back from being completely honest and direct with God in your prayers?
4. How might our prayer lives change if we truly believed God was a loving Father eager to hear from and respond to us?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Close your time by praying that God will help you to be encouraging to others and to be bold and direct in your prayers.

IN THIS TOGETHER!