



## WEEK SIX: WE PRAY

By Dan Roseman and Carey Madding

October 16, 2011

What is "church"? As we continue through the book of Acts, we see people respond to the Holy Spirit. Last week, we saw how important it is that *we commit* to each other as the church. This week we saw how crucial it is that *we pray* as a church, to become an effective church.

### Where Am I Today?

- 1) Consider your prayer life. Think about things like: Am I praying with others? Are others praying for me? Do I only pray during a crisis? Do I only pray for my needs? Now, jot down your thoughts.

### Into the Bible

- 2) **Read** Acts 4:23-31 for an example of the early church praying about the mission they were on. How was their prayer life similar to yours? Different?
  
- 3) Contrary to popular belief, God doesn't always hear our prayers. It's not about being perfect. In fact, we can share our anger with God, or call out to Him from the middle of our sin. But the following scripture passages help us to understand some things that might hinder our prayer lives. What specific steps can you take to ensure a better prayer life?



- a. 2 Chronicles 7:12-14
  - b. Isaiah 58:1-10
  - c. 1 Peter 3:7
  - d. 1 John 1:9
- 4) Prayer is important, and we're called to pray for many things. One of the things that the church is called to pray for is our mission to reach people who don't know Jesus. **Read** the following passages where the church and/or its leaders pray for their God-given mission. What can each of the following passages teach you about how ***we pray*** as a church?
- a. Luke 10:2-3
  - b. Colossians 4:2-3
  - c. 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

### **How Does This Apply?**

- 5) **Read** Matthew 18:19-20. The weekend message mentioned several aspects of this scripture: asking; being in agreement with other believers; and being in agreement with Jesus, Who promises to be there. How does this change our prayers?



- 6) If you pray for boldness, open doors, or workers for the harvest, what are you called to do afterward?
- 7) If we learn anything from this week, we need to learn to change the focus and manner of our personal prayers. The Lord is challenging us to spend less time *talking* about our prayer needs and more time *praying*. Your Life Group is a safe place to practice this. And this week is a great week to start! Will you take the next step in your prayer life? What is that for you?

### **Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own**

- 8) Some people believe that the point of prayer is to align your will with God's. This view teaches that our prayers do more to change us than any given situation. Others believe that prayer can actually change the way God acts. This view teaches that we can be involved in God's work with Him. How do the following passages help us deal with that tension?

Genesis 18:22-33

Joshua 10:12-13

Exodus 32:11-12

2 Chronicles 7:14

Daniel 10:12

Amos 7:1-6

James 4:2

Matthew 6:7-15

Luke 11:9-10

James 5:13-18