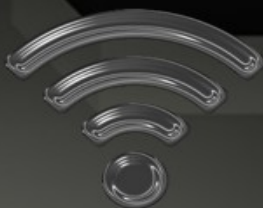


SIGNAL STRENGTH



wireless

The Point: *Prayer Communicates God's Greatness*

Matthew 6:9

DISCUSSION GENERATORS

. **Read Matthew 6:9.** What are two things that stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be silly, serious, stupid, or spiritual)

. Why do you think it is important to communicate God's greatness when we pray?

. When you pray in the face of your greatest struggles in life, where do you usually focus your attention while praying?
___ on the problem ___ on God
___ on the solution you want ___ on your own inadequacy
___ you avoid God during these times ___ other

. Would anyone feel comfortable sharing an example of a prayer God has answered in your life that seemed impossible?

. **Read Acts 4:23-31.** This event was very early in the history of the church. Peter and John caused a stir by healing a man in Jesus' name; then they boldly told Jewish authorities that Jesus, whom the authorities had crucified, was alive and that salvation was only in Him. The authorities "commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus" (4:18), to which Peter and John replied that they could not help speaking about Him. What was the challenge that these early Christian believers faced*?

DISCUSSION GENERATORS

- .As the early believers gathered with Peter and John to pray about what had happened and how they were going to handle it, where was the focus in their prayer*?
- .How did these believers express their confidence in God's ability and power*?
- .How can God's past actions encourage us to pray with boldness*? What can get in our way of praying with boldness?
- .How did the believers show their willingness to go ahead in faith after praying*? Why is that important for us to take note of?
- .What would it mean for us to pray focused on God rather than our problems*?

*All of the above asterisked questions are either verbatim or heavily based on content from Prayer: Too Busy Not To Pray Study Guide by Bill Hybel published by InterVarsity Press, USA 1994.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Have you ever heard the old adage, "The family that prays together, stays together"? There is a lot of truth in that and it applies to the church as well since we, our families, are the church.

Spend some time together as a group in prayer and focus your prayers only on God's greatness. (LEADERS: One way you can do this is with sentence prayers. Let me know if you are unsure what I mean by that.)

Matthew 6:19 (NET)

So pray this way: Our Father in heaven, may your name be **honored**,

Acts 4:23-31 (CEV)

As soon as Peter and John had been set free, they went back and told the others everything the chief priests and the leaders had said to them. When the rest of the Lord's followers heard this, they prayed together and said: *Master, you created heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. And by the Holy Spirit you spoke to our ancestor David. He was your servant, and you told him to say: "Why are all the Gentiles so furious? Why do people make foolish plans? The kings of earth prepare for war, and the rulers join together against the Lord and his Messiah."* Here in Jerusalem, Herod and Pontius Pilate got together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel. Then they turned against your holy Servant Jesus, your chosen Messiah. They did what you in your power and wisdom had already decided would happen. Lord, listen to their threats! We are your servants. So make us brave enough to speak your message. Show your mighty power, as we heal people and work miracles and wonders in the name of your holy Servant Jesus. After they had prayed, the meeting place shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and bravely spoke God's message.

The logo features a stylized Wi-Fi symbol consisting of three curved lines above a central dot, positioned above the word "wireless" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font.