

BEYOND

February 13 & 14: Partners in Prayer

This study guide provides suggestions for further Bible study and reflection. You may not wish to pursue all the questions or to consider all practical applications. This is intended to be a benefit to the small group, not a workbook to be followed rigidly. We recommend that you take time to read the Scripture passages listed in the Sermon Summary. All Bible references are from the New International Version unless otherwise noted.

Overview

Prayer is a fundamental part of our Christian life. Many times we grow in our spiritual life when we pray with someone else. These are some basic steps toward developing a prayer life with others that will enrich your own life with God.



Take a second look ... Sermon Summary

Prayer that leads increasingly to the heart of God is prayer worth making time for, even in the most demanding of schedules. Prayer with someone else increases the blessing that comes from a time of drawing near to God.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, ⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: ¹⁰If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! ¹¹Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹²Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Matthew 18:19, Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

Practical Steps:

1. Find a prayer partner and start meeting together.
2. Determine that your primary goal is to deepen your relationship with God.
3. Don't be tempted to replace your personal prayer time with your prayer time together.
4. Respect your differences.
5. Make prayer the main thing.
6. Learn to love silence.
7. Remember who you are talking to.
8. Be aware of the enemy's schemes.
9. Guard your motives.
10. Confess to one another.
11. Trust one another.
12. Keep variety in your prayer life.
13. Pray through times of crisis.
14. Allow the Lord to restore what has been broken.
15. Make decisions in prayer.
16. Mentor others.



Take it to the source ... Bible Study

Introductory question: Have you ever had a time when praying with somebody was a real encouragement or source of strength? What were the circumstances and what was the result in your life?

Read *James 5:16*.

1. The Greek word that is translated *healed* actually means *wholeness* or *forgiven*. What does that say to you about the power of confession and prayer for each other?
2. What would *wholeness* mean in your life right now? What could you be praying about with another person for your own situation?
3. Are you used to praying for others in your daily time with God? Why do you think this is an important part of your spiritual progress?

Read *Matthew 18:19*.

1. What are some reasons why there may be more power in united prayer?
2. Do you feel a greater sense of the presence of Jesus when you are with other believers? How can that same sense of His presence strengthen your times of prayer when you are praying with another person?
3. If praying with another person is a new idea to you, consider who could become a trusted prayer partner in your life. What practical things would you have to do to start praying together?
4. Take some time to consider and discuss the importance of trust and confidentiality in a prayer relationship. How important is it that you are trustworthy with your partner in prayer? (*What happens in prayer time stays in prayer time.*)

Read *Galatians 6:2*.

1. How can praying together play a major role in carrying each other's burdens?
2. Do you struggle with thinking that praying for somebody isn't really helping them in a meaningful way? Why?
3. Take some time to consider situations in your life that you would like to pray with someone about. How would knowing that someone is praying with you help you face those things in your life?
4. How can praying together actually become a living statement of the power of God in each person's life?



Take it home ... Practical Applications

- Find a person to be your prayer partner.
- Establish a regular meeting time.
- Share your lives together through prayer and see how God begins to work.



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