

**Prayer – First Response or Last Resort Series**  
**Message # 1: Prayer – Changing The Mind of God or Changing Me**  
Core Group Discussion Guide  
September 9, 2018

**Message Overview:**

One Sunday after the morning service, a woman came up to me and was telling me about all of the problems and difficulties she had been struggling with in her life. She began to tell me about all of the various things she had tried on her own (none of which had any spiritual basis) to remedy the problems she was wrestling with. After a lengthy monologue, she finally asked, *“What do you think I should do?”* My response (surprised even me) – *“I guess the only thing left for you to do is to pray about it.”*

As I later thought about my response to her, I asked myself – **“When we encounter problems and difficulties in life, WHY is prayer our last resort, rather than our first response?”**

**Text:**

Luke 11:1-4; John 14:13-14; 15:7, 16; 16:23-24

**Questions for Discussion:**

• **OPEN IT –**

1. I believe most of us “THINK” we pray more than we actually do!
2. On an average – ***How much time do you spend in prayer each day?***
  - Let’s find out. In just one of these categories each day do you ...
    - Spend more time praying than you spend reading the newspaper???
    - Spend more time praying than you spend watching TV???
    - Spend more time praying than checking your e-mails, checking Facebook or Twitter???
    - Spend more time praying than talking on the phone and texting?
    - Spend more time praying than showering, dressing, and combing your hair?
  - Ouch! This hurts. Doesn’t it?

• **EXPLORE IT –**

1. Talk about some of the **FAULTY MISCONCEPTIONS** we have about prayer (as noted in our sermon this morning). Why do we fall into these traps?
2. How does our belief about God affect the way we pray?
3. How does prayer change **people** or **circumstances**?
4. How can praying using the **FOUR PURPOSES OF PRAYER** (as noted in our sermon this morning) change **how** and **what** we pray about?

• **APPLY IT –**

1. Whom can you call today or tomorrow and offer to pray on his or her behalf?
2. What changes are you going to make in your personal prayer life?