

Prayer – First Response or Last Resort Series
Message # 6: A Prayer You Can Pray 365 Days A Year
Core Group Discussion Guide
October 21, 2018

Message Overview:

- All of us know that we should be praying.
- Yet many Christians still do not practice prayer with any regularity, fervency, or quantity.
- Why are we not praying like we should?
- There are **THREE REASONS** why we resist praying the way we should.
 - (1) **Cynicism** – Deep down we believe that God does not actually answer prayer. We think everything will turn out the same anyway.
 - (2) **Boredom** – We pray the same prayers and lift up the same subjects over and over again.
 - (3) **Self-Confidence** – As long as there is food on the table and everything is in order, we are confident that we have everything handled.
- The answer to these obstacles in our prayer life is to **PRAY SCRIPTURE**.
- The Apostle Paul's prayer in Philippians 1:9-11 as he prayed for the saints at Philippi is a **MODEL PRAYER** for us to follow.

Text: Philippians 1:1-11

Questions for Discussion:

- **OPEN IT –**

As you think about Paul's greeting at the beginning of Philippians, respond to the following questions.

 1. What's your usual way of saying hello to your friends?
 2. In your family, how important are greetings in affirming each other?
 3. How does personally knowing the people you are praying for change the way you pray for them?
- **EXPLORE IT –**
 1. Why is it a good practice to begin a letter with a Christian blessing?
 1. When Paul thought about the Philippians, what did he do? (1:3)
 2. What did Paul report that he prayed for? (1:9)
 3. What two results did Paul seek? (1:10-11)
 4. Paul complimented the Philippian church – what positive things can you say about our congregation?
 5. How is Paul's prayer for the Philippians a good prayer for you to copy?
- **APPLY IT –**
 1. What prayer of thanksgiving can you offer for your church today?
 2. How can you encourage someone in his or her Christian journey this week?
 3. Which Christian brother or sister would be heartened to receive a letter from you this week?