

40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY LIFE GROUP OUTLINE PT. 4
BECOMING PRAYER PARTNERS TOGETHER
9/30-10/1/2017

“They all joined together constantly in prayer.” (Acts 1:14 NIV)

I. Introduction

A. In our *40 Days of Community*, we are studying about how God turns a crowd into a _____ that can change the world. In the early church, praying with each other, for each other, about each other was glue that made them one and brought power that changed the world. We want to consider today the important fact that God wants to turn us from praying just prayers to prayer _____.

B. I believe praying together is one of the most underutilized sources of spiritual _____ in the world. Our spiritual potential is directly related to how we pray and who prays for us.

1. Jesus made it clear that where we link up in prayer, He _____ up in power.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” (Mat. 18:18-20 NIV)

2. In the early church, corporate prayer:

- Opened Heaven for the Spirit to be poured out.
- Protection and deliverance (Paul, Peter)

“For I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened will turn out for my deliverance.” (Phil. 1:19 NIV)

- Philippines
- Outpouring of signs and wonders
- Moved the gospel to the Gentile world.
- Empowered them to resolve conflicts.
- It unified them and brought them in “one accord”.

“When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.” (Acts 2:1)

‘homothumadin’ To be all in, completely one, at the same time, in agreement, supporting each other, being of unanimous consent, sharing completely one mind, one passion, one vision, harmonizing and striking a single cord.

II. How do we move from prayers to prayer partners (Exodus 17:8-15 NIV)

A. They saw the spiritual battles behind the physical struggles and really joined together with _____ spiritual battles as if they were their own. They had a prayer covenant.

- *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Eph. 6:10-12)*
- *“Continue to remember those in prison as you were together with them in prison, and those mistreated as if you yourself were suffering.” (Hebrews 13:3 NIV)*

B. They learned to pray _____ each other.

1. They were intentional in having a time and place of prayer.
2. They were vulnerable. “Satan sleeps when we plan, laughs when we worry, but panics when we pray.”

Reasons why it is difficult to pray together:

- a. We have wrong _____ of prayer.
- b. We have never been taught to pray; we have to learn a language.
- c. We have different styles
- d. We have to get in sync. Praying together means learning to be tuned in not just with God but _____, and to really submit our prayers to harmonize. We have to learn how to unite our prayers to become one prayer.
- e. We have to have a humble heart, that’s in the right place with people. Prayer always brings change. It is a willingness to change within, that brings power without.

3. They helped each other not get discouraged and _____.

Prayer is not magic; it’s obedience. We often see victory one prayer at a time. *“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.” (Luke 18:1 NIV)*

C. They found power in prayer by _____ around the name and greatness of God. Jehovah Nissi-The God who rallies and unites us in battle to be able to stand together and obtain victory because of who He is and what He has done for us.

- *“Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.” (Ps. 20:5-7 NKJV)*
- *“When the enemy comes in like a flood the Lord will raise a standard against him.” (Isa. 59:19)*
- *“You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive.” (Ps. 68:18 NKJV)*

(Answers: I. community, partners, power, shows II. others, with, concepts, each other, persevere, rallying)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Do you have an example of how the prayers of others have impacted your life? To what extent do you feel you have tapped the spiritual resources of not only your own prayers but the prayers of others in your life, home, school, business? (25%, 50%, 75%, other)
2. What would you say are some things that have made it difficult for you to pray with others or have prayer partners in your life?
 - a. I'm someone who has been private about my faith.
 - b. I've had inaccurate thoughts about prayer.
 - c. I feel afraid of looking dumb or being judged.
 - d. It's hard for me to tell people my needs and ask for prayer.
 - e. I've not been taught how to pray out loud.
3. What would be an area where you would love to have friends rally and hold up a standard of faith in prayer for you?

(Groups may decide they would like to take 15 or 20 minutes for united prayer. On the following page is a suggested way each person could take a moment and using this paper or a 3X5 card, write down the answers to some of these questions to help each one contribute in the prayer time.

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER TIME WORKSHEET

1. Take a moment to think of one thing you can give thanks for because you can see God's blessing. **Circle one that comes to mind.**
 - a. Spiritual blessing
 - b. Relational blessing
 - c. Financial or material blessing
 - d. Physical blessing (health, strength)
2. List one attribute of God that encourages you in a special way.
Faithful, Provider, Wisdom Giver, Way Maker, Liberator, In Control, Kind, Good, Merciful, Redeemer, Strength, Forgiver, Healer, Defender, Joy Bringer, Warrior, Rest
3. Write down a need you would like to ask God's help for.
4. Invite God to speak to you.
5. Declare in Faith a promise of God concerning something prayed about.

(Church wide prayer suggestions:

1. God to make life groups to be strong prayer groups
2. God's blessing on Harvest Sunday
3. Our Daring Faith campaign to be able to start construction