

ROOTED IN HIM

FAITH, FREEDOM, AND THE PURSUIT OF INTIMACY

Rooted in Him – Pursuit of Intimacy Small Group Discussion Guide // July 8, 2018

1. **Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that challenged, intrigued, surprised, bothered, confused, or was new to you?**
2. Read James 4:8 - If you are a Christ follower, you would likely agree that prayer should be a critical element of a Christian’s life. Prayer is one of the primary ways we communicate with God. As with any relationship, communication fosters connection, and connection fosters intimacy. One of our values here at Kankakee 1st is Intimacy with God. We believe that it is impossible to have intimacy with God apart from prayer.
If we believe in the importance and power of prayer, why don’t we pray more? Why is it hard to commit to prayer?
3. Read John 15:7, 1 John 5:14 – Too often we think, I’ll send up a prayer and see what God will do. Maybe He’ll answer it and maybe He won’t, but let’s hope He does. The Bible does not approach prayer this way. Scripture approaches prayer from the assumption that it is meant to be answered. When we end our prayers, “In Jesus’ name,” we are claiming his righteousness and acting as Jesus ambassador. We are essentially praying for His will to be done.
How can we know His will? Has there been a time when you clearly knew how God wanted you to be paying for something?
4. Read Ephesians 6:10-11&18 - Intercession is prayer that pleads with God for your needs and the needs of others. But it is also much more than that. Intercession involves taking hold of God's will and refusing to let go until His will comes to pass.
How would you describe the difference between a typical view of prayer and intercessory prayer? What is the role of intercession in accomplishing the will of God in our homes, church, community and on earth?
5. Corporate prayer proclaims the gospel. It builds a community of grace, trust, and vulnerability as we confess our needs and weaknesses. Our Wednesday night prayer meeting can be one of the most powerful weapons the Church has in this world. While the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit, prayer is the force that moves it to strike.
How could we make corporate prayer a regular part of our lives?