

PRAYER AND MISSION

READ: COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Last week's home group conversation ended with a question to be answered this week: "Who did you have an opportunity to bless this past week?" As you've considered the theme of being salt and light, have you had any specific opportunities to bless those around you this past week? How did it go?

2. On Sunday we heard some powerful stories of God faithfully answering prayer. Share any personal stories you can think of regarding God faithfully answering your prayers, especially as it relates to prayers for those who don't know God and/or are in real need.

3. On Sunday we were left with two challenges. One of them was to pray for a neighbor for the month and invite them over for a meal. The other was to go on a prayer walk this week. **Read the following page out loud together** on the Prayer Walk Exercise and then answer the following questions:

a. What is your initial reaction to the idea of a prayer walk? Do you get excited about doing this? Are there any barriers to doing this? Do you have any experience doing this?

b. Of the two challenges given on Sunday, which are you going to commit to doing, knowing that you can do both?

GROUP PRAYER:

Spend some time in prayer together, praying along the lines of these two themes:

a. What do you think you need from God regarding living a life of faithful outreach? (i.e. courage, opportunities, motivation, etc.)

b. Is there anyone specific God has placed on your heart that we can be praying for during this series?

REMINDER:

BBQ is next week, 10:30 at William Mason Park. If you signed up to bring food, please bring food!

PRAYER WALK EXERCISE

INTRODUCTION

A prayer walk is exactly that: a time set aside to walk through a particular area with a prayerful heart for the people of that area. It's something you can do alone or with a spouse, friend, roommate, or Christian neighbor. The idea is to walk with your eyes open and your heart open to the people and needs of that area. You simply pray as you walk, either silently or softly. If praying with another person, pray out loud but quietly so that if others were to observe you, it wouldn't be obvious to them what you are doing. Anywhere between 20-60 minutes would be an appropriate range of time for such a prayer walk.

This exercise is most suited for a prayer walk on your street, neighborhood, or apartment complex. That being said, you may be able to adapt this for a prayer walk in the context of your work space or other areas within your city and larger community if that makes more sense for you.

YOUR TIME OF PRAYER

Pray for whatever God puts on your heart during this time. Here are some suggested directions for prayer:

- Ask God to give you his heart for the people on your street and to give you eyes to see them the way he sees them. Consider the passage we studied two weeks ago: "When Jesus saw the crowds he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Mt. 9:36). Remember, you are not asking God to start working on your street since he is already at work and already cares for the people on your street far more than you do. So, this prayer time is an opportunity for you to come into alignment with God's heart and to begin to see the world through his eyes.
- Ask God to bless the people on your street as you pass by each house. In some cases, you may know a lot about a family in a particular house, and you can pray specifically for their needs. In other cases, you may know very little, but you can still pray for God to bless them and reveal himself to them.
- Prayerfully consider some of the challenges and issues that you're aware of in your neighborhood. For instance, is there a lack of community, is there a lot of materialism, is there a pace of life is unsustainable, is there a racial dynamic that is complicated? Pray that God would bring healing and transformation to those issues.
- Ask God to open a door of opportunity to love, serve, and share Jesus with people on your street. Ask him to create a set of circumstances in which people would be particularly receptive to the good news and you would be uniquely placed and equipped to share that with them.
- Pray that God would move other believers in your neighborhood to love and share the good news with those around them. Pray that he would connect you with other believers who have a heart to serve so that together you might do more than you could do alone.