



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Week 6 | Intercessory Prayer Gospel Community Leaders Guide

Pray

As you begin, pray with your group. Pray that you all would not attempt to pray in your own understanding or your own strength, but would seek to unite your desires and plans with God's. Pray that your faith, relationships with each other, and compassion for the world would be strengthened as you consider intercessory prayer.

Discuss

Discuss this week's sermon and the following questions with your group:

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” - Matthew 7:7-12

- How does it change prayer for you to think about God as the father described in Matthew 7?
- What does it tell you about God that He knows our needs, but still invites us to ask?

- **Do you find it difficult to know what to pray for yourself and others? How is this a hurdle for you in intercessory prayer?**
- **How have you found that intercessory prayer has impacted your relationships with those you are praying for?**

Encourage

Encourage your group:

The Spirit knows the needs. Instead of trying to figure out our own needs and the needs of our communities, we can trust the Spirit in prayer to reveal to us the needs of those we are praying for. Intercessory prayer must begin with coming to Jesus and asking Him how to pray for those that we care for. In doing this, we connect our authentic selves with Him and pray with Him. *“Intercessory prayer is more about recognizing that we do not know how to pray for others--or ourselves for that matter--but the Holy Spirit knows.”* - Ruth Haley Barton.

Intercessory prayer changes our hearts. As we seek God’s will, we begin to desire God’s will. As we pray for other in our church, our community is strengthened. As we pray for kingdom needs and needs around the world, our hearts change and become more connected to needs around the world. This kind of prayer leads us to deeper community, awareness, and action.

