



THE PRIORITY OF PRAYER

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Focus We need to recognize the effects prayer can have on our lives and our world. There is a lot of unrest and anxiety in our nation today, but prayer changes situations on a personal and national scale. It is our responsibility as believers to pray for the future, not to become anxious about it. Laying our cares at Jesus' feet in prayer helps us feel less anxious and lifts our burdens.

Fun Share your favorite Thanksgiving memory or something you're thankful for.

Review Key Scriptures: Ephesians 6:12, Psalm 55:22

1. Take it seriously.

We are in a spiritual war, and prayer changes what happens. God's people can transform the future of our country by praying about it.

2. Don't take it too seriously.

Don't stress about prayer because God is still in control. Prayer is not designed to put burdens on us; it is designed to take burdens away. We need to pray about everything, and be anxious for nothing.

Group Dynamics Idea Have group members write their names and prayer requests on index cards. Then have each member draw a card, take it home, and pray over that person this week. When they return next week, members can share updates on their prayer requests.

Discuss

1. What does the word "principality" mean?
2. In Mark 5, why did the legion of demons in the man near the tombs beg Jesus not to send them out of the region?
3. What is a stronghold? How can we identify the strongholds in our nation and in our own lives?
4. What did Pastor Robert mean when he said, "Sheep are not pack animals"?
5. What are some of the positive outcomes of casting our burdens on the Lord in prayer?
6. Can you share a story of how prayer has helped you?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Prioritize prayer because the effects are powerful when believers pray.
- Jesus is the Prince of Peace who fights for us when we pray.
- Don't become stressed about prayer; lay your anxiety at Jesus' feet.

Prayer Dear Lord, thank You that Jesus, when He rose from the dead, gave us the power to pray effectively. We pray against principalities and strongholds of the enemy in America today. We pray that Your hand will guide our nation's leaders, that our culture will turn toward You, and that all believers will be freed from the deception of the enemy. Help us lean into You in our personal prayer time so we can truly pray Your desires and Your heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Try having your group members pray in small groups or pairs at the end of your meeting rather than as a whole group. That way everyone has an opportunity to practice praying out loud with someone else.