



Discussion Guide

March 29, 2015



Discussion Questions	Leader Notes
<p>Prayer is the lifelong chance of a lifetime. -Max Lucado</p>	<p>Helpful Hint: Get people involved in the discussion by asking non-threatening questions that will engage the whole group.</p>
<p>Discussion Kick Off</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poll your group with this question: What are some situations in life when most people pray? 2. What would motivate you to pray more frequently and with more earnestly? 	
<p>Evaluate It</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do we use prayer as a last resort and what keeps people from turning to God in prayer? 2. What advice did James give to the troubled, the cheerful and the sick? 3. What are the elements of powerful and effective prayer? 4. Why does James choose Elijah as an example of prayer? See 1 Kings Chapters 17-18. 5. Who in the church has the responsibility to do something if a brother is seen wandering from the truth? 6. When God chooses not to answer our prayers in our way or timetable, what could be the reason(s)? 	<p>SCRIPTURE PASSAGE Read James 4: 13-20 Make it more interesting by reading from the Message version (free on the You Version Bible App).</p>
<p>Make It Personal</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are your next steps to build intimate relationships, to believe in prayer or to bring back the wanderer? 2. Verses 19-20 make it clear that as Christians, we're mutually responsible to keep each other on the right path toward an ever-deepening relationship with Christ. How can we help each other without being meddlers? 	<p>At the end of the discussion, take a moment to take prayer requests from the group (if you haven't done so) and pray for your group before you end your time together.</p>
<p>ONLY BY PRAYER</p> <p>Tony Campolo is a well-known Christian communicator who teaches sociology at Easter College in St. Davids, Pennsylvania. One day he was invited to speak and when he arrived for the service, he was escorted to a back room where eight men laid their hands on him and began to pray. Campolo was very appreciative of their heartfelt prayers, but one guy spent a long time praying about something that had nothing to do with the chapel service. The longer he prayed, the more others grew weary and leaned more heavily on Tony. He prayed on and on about a friend of his named Charlie. He said, "God, you know Charlie. He lives in that silver trailer down the road a mile. You know the trailer, Lord, just down the road on the right-hand side."</p> <p>Tony was thinking, "Knock it off, fella. Do you think God is asking, 'what's that address again?'" The guy went on, "Lord, Charlie told me this morning that he was going to leave his wife and three kids. He's going to walk out on his family. Lord, step in and do something, bring that family together again." Campolo said the guy just kept praying earnestly for his friend Charlie and kept reiterating the fact that he was leaving his wife and children and lived in a silver trailer just down the road on the right-hand side. Meanwhile the others kept leaning more heavily.</p> <p>Finally, it was over and he went to preach. Afterwards, he got in his car and started heading home. Soon thereafter, he saw a hitchhiker and pulled over to give him a ride. As they pulled back onto the road Campolo introduced himself and the hitchhiker said his name was Charlie. Campolo's heart began to race and he took the next exit off the turnpike. The passenger asked him why he was exiting and Campolo said, "Because you just left your wife and three children, right?" Charlie's eyes got real big and he said, "R-r-right." He leaned closer to the door and never took his eyes off Campolo. Then things got real strange when Campolo drove him right to his silver trailer. In complete amazement Charlie asked, "How'd you know where I live?" Campolo replied, "God told me." He then ordered Charlie to get in that trailer and Charlie hurried to the door. His wife greeted him at the doorway and shouted, "You're back, you're back!" Charlie then began whispering in her ear and her eyes got bigger and bigger.</p> <p>Campolo then came up to the porch and said, "Sit down. I'm going to talk and the two of you are going to listen." It was the most captive audience he had ever addressed. That afternoon those two people were led to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and today Charlie is a preacher of the gospel.</p>	

Starting a Table or Life Group? Take a look at the helpful information below:

Who establishes and makes up a table or life group?

1. Husband & Wife
2. Family
3. 2-5 Guys
4. 2-5 Ladies
5. 2-5 Couples

Where do they meet?

1. Kitchen table
2. Coffee table
3. Cafe table
4. Restaurant table
5. Picnic table
6. Work table
7. Round table

- Meeting (how often, how long): Weekly or bi-weekly (day and time is decided by the group). No more than 2 hours.
- Who should lead a table or life group? Leadership can be shared or the group may choose a leader.
- How long should the group stay together? The group should commit to stay together 6-8 weeks. Groups can renew their commitment to meet together at the end of that time, but initially groups should stay together 6-8 weeks.
- What happens if the group is too big to meet around a table? No table or life group should have more than 15 individuals. If a group grows to have more than 15 participants, there are two options:
 - Multiply into separate tables (groups of less than 15) or
 - Seek to establish a life group (10-20 participants)
- If you have any questions or would like to establish a life group, please contact Jason Fox at 270-765-4994 or jason@fcctown.com.

If you would like to talk with a minister,
call 270-765-4994 to set up an appointment or contact:

Stuart Jones stuart@fcctown.com Senior Minister
Chris Kiger chris@fcctown.com Student Minister
Jason Fox jason@fcctown.com Small Group Minister

Doug Mitchell doug@fcctown.com Connections Minister
Tim Hurd tim@fcctown.com Children's Minister
Shannon Smith Shannon@fcctown.com Assistant Children's Director