

Life Group Discussion Guide

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
HOW AND WHEN
1 THESSALONIANS 5:17
Stuart Jones - March 5, 2017



INTRODUCTION

Communication is a two-way street. When God wants to know “Where Does It Hurt?” we have a responsibility to him and to ourselves to answer that question through prayer.

We, as believers, must express our thoughts and needs so He can answer our cries for help. While it is true God is all-knowing, it is also true He still requires we ask Him for things. James 4:2 says, “You do not have because you do not ask God.” God expects us to ask!

1 John 5:14-15 says “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him.”

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. What has been your most physically challenging moment (sports conditioning, PE, running a half marathon, etc.)? Tell the group about it.
2. What’s something you wish you would have prayed about but didn’t? Why did you hold out?

EVALUATE IT

1. When you’re battling sickness, hurt by a relationship or confused by death, we’re supposed to pray. But how? What do you say? How do you say it?
2. Read 1 Kings 18:27-29. Do you ever get caught up in believing there are things you can do to make God more receptive of your prayer? Why or why not?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. Stuart said, “Don’t wait until you think you can get yourself together and get yourself right and get yourself strong. Come weak.” Why should we come to God when we’re weak?
4. Read Luke 18:1-8. Stuart said, “We should also come often to God with our hurts.” What is the value of repeatedly going before God in prayer?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Do you freely go to God in prayer about everything or do you feel the need to get "fixed up" before you can pray? Explain your answer.
2. How can the group pray for you?

The late Dr. Donald Barnhouse, greatly admired American pastor and author, once came to the pulpit and made a statement that stunned his congregation: "Prayer changes nothing!" You could have heard a pin drop in that packed Sunday worship service in Philadelphia. His comment, of course, was designed to make Christians realize that God is sovereignly in charge of everything. Our times are literally in His hands. No puny human being by uttering a few words in prayer takes charge of events and changes them. God does the shaping, the changing; it is He who is in control. Barnhouse was correct, except in one minor detail. Prayer changes me. When you and I pray, we change, and that is one of the major reasons prayer is such a therapy that counteracts anxiety.

-Charles Swindoll, Strengthening Your Grip

Link to the video in Stuart's Sermon: <https://youtu.be/NeZvochYLu0>



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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