

# Life Group Discussion Guide

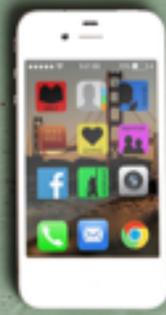
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*PRAYER: NO BOUNDARIES*

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Stuart Jones - July 3, 2016

MY  
FAVORITE  
THINGS



## INTRODUCTION

A big part of our everyday lives is communicating with others. Whether it is with our spouse, our kids, a coworker or a complete stranger, communication is important. An even more important thing is communication with God through prayer. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT), Paul encourages us to “never stop praying.” Paul is not referring to non-stop talking, but rather a habit of being with God always and making our whole life a prayer. Every waking moment is to be lived in an awareness that God is with us and He is actively involved and engaged in our thoughts and actions. As we go through the day, prayer should be our first response to every situation, good or bad, and every anxious thought. This way of thinking about prayer will make it one of the favorite things in our lives.

## DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Who is the most famous person you’ve ever met? How did you get the opportunity to meet them?
2. What does prayer look like in your life? Do you pray? Do you pray regularly or do you have a “Hail Mary” prayer on the way to a job interview or as your plane is taxiing out to take off?

## EVALUATE IT

1. Stuart said, “Prayer is a conversation we get to have with the ‘highest celebrity in the universe.’” What is prayer to you? Is it something you enjoy or is it a “have to?”
2. First Thessalonians 5:17 says to, “Pray continually.” Do you think Paul is actually instructing us to pray all of the time without stopping.
3. God told Jacob, “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.” How does knowing God is everywhere at all times correspond with Paul’s words to pray continually?
4. We learned the same Elijah who prayed and God sent fire from Heaven also prayed a prayer of fear a short time later. Our mistakes do not cause God to put His fingers in His ears. Even though we may feel like avoiding God because of shame or guilt, should we? Why or why not?

## MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. If God is not bound by a place, a time or affected by our emotions, what obstacles are keeping you from praying continually?
2. What do you need to do to make prayer a regular part of your life? Do you need to set aside a time, postpone TV time, turn off the radio, etc.?

## ILLUSTRATION

Prayer is surrender – surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out a boat hook from a boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God. – E. Stanley Jones

When the Gettysburg battleground became a national cemetery, Edward Everett was to give the dedication speech and Abraham Lincoln was asked to say "a few appropriate words." Everett spoke eloquently for one hour and fifty-seven minutes then took his seat as the crowd roared its enthusiastic approval. Then Lincoln stood to his feet, slipped on his steel spectacles, and began what we know today as the "Gettysburg Address. Poignant words "... The world will little note nor long remember... " – suddenly, he was finished. No more than two minutes after he had begun he stopped. His talk had been so prayer like it seemed almost inappropriate to applaud. As Lincoln sank into his settee, John Young of the Philadelphia Press whispered, "Is that all?" The President answered, "Yes, that is all."

Don't underestimate two minutes with God in prayer. – Charles R. Swindle, Quest for Character



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

Jason Fox  
270-765-4994  
jason@fccetown.com