

Prayer

Prayer and the Gospel of Mark

There is a fascinating story in the Gospel of Mark. We find it in chapter nine, beginning in verse 14. A man brings his demon-possessed son to Jesus' disciples to be healed, but the disciples cannot drive the demon out. The father then asks Jesus to heal his son and Jesus in turn casts the demon out, and the young boy is restored.

A short while later, the disciples come to Jesus in private and ask, "Why could not we cast this demon out?" To which Jesus replied, "these only come out through prayer."

This story gives us a glimpse into the power that the lies of the world, the flesh and the devil have in the lives of those around us—so powerful in many cases that only the faithful, persistent prayer of the saints can break the stronghold. You will soon experience this, if you have not already. There may be members of your small group who have been taken captive by the lies of the world. As a result, your prayers and petitions are vital to the work God wants to do in transforming their lives.

The Foundation for Your Small Group

We believe prayer is the foundation for your small group. If you do nothing else, pray by name for each member of your group on a weekly basis. We have seen the power of prayer firsthand in the lives of others who have gone through this study, as God continues to transform lives when we invite Him to do so. Remember, the success of your group is not dependent on your ability to lead an excellent discussion. The most important thing you can give every member of your small group is the time you spend in prayer on their behalf.

Action Items

You may also want to encourage the members of your group to pray for one another. A practical tip is to hand out note cards each week with participants' names on them, asking each person to take a card and commit to pray for one individual throughout the week.

1. Pray weekly by name for each member of your group.
2. Encourage members to pray for one another by rotating names each week.
3. Start and end each meeting with prayer.
4. Keep the prayer time focused on group members, not individuals outside the group.

Thank you again for partnering with us!
