**Life Team Notes – week of 11/25/18 Prayer**

John 14:6, Psalm 51:17, 10:17, 34:15-19, Matt 21:22

**THE FILTER**

Matthew 6:10

We are to pray - **God’s will be done.**

**THE ASK**

Matthew 6:11, John 16:24, 1 Peter 5:7, Psalm 37:4

**God invites us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**What to pray for / what not to pray for: Ask yourself**

James 4:2-4, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 1 Timothy 6:17-19

1. **Is this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for you? (already revealed in Scripture - YES**
2. **Is this something that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? YES**
3. **Is this a request of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ others? Blessing – YES**
4. **Is this drawing you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from God? Closer – YES**

**THE DILEMMA**

Isaiah 46:10, Psalm 115:3, Psalm 135:6, Matthew 6:8, Psalm 139:1-3

**1. Because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – Luke 6:12, 5:16**

**2. Because God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Matthew 7:7-8, Romans 8:26-27**

**3. Because it expresses our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on God – Philippians 4:6-7**

**4. Because God uses our prayers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5. Because prayer to God is and always about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**One last verse - 1 John 5:14-15**

* What does this verse tell you about prayer?

**Let’s pray together**

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**One last verse - 1 John 5:14-15**

* What does this verse tell you about prayer?

**Let’s pray together**

**Life Team Notes – week of 11/25/18 Prayer**

* Thinking back on Sunday, what stood out to you about this topic?
* It was mentioned Sunday that Jesus told us we do not need to be a professional at prayer for God to hear us. Is that good news? Why?

**John 14:6, Psalm 51:17, 10:17, 34:15-19, Matt 21:22**

* According to those verses, what does God look for when we prayer?

#1 is Jesus – then humility, brokenness, obedience, faith

* Why is it important to come to the Father through Jesus? We need Jesus forgiveness from sins to approach God’s holy presence.

**THE FILTER**

* Sunday, it was mentioned that in the Lord’s prayer it says to pray that God’s will be done in our life (Matt 6:10). What does that mean to you?

**THE ASK**

* We’ve talked a lot about the purpose of prayer. Is it okay to ask God for help in life?

Yes – **God invites us to ask him.** We should never hesitate to ask. We are invited to. What you have need of Jesus cares about.

**Matthew 6:11, John 16:24, 1 Peter 5:7, Psalm 37:4**

* Is there anything out of the reach of God? Explain your answer.
* How does the following verse apply to our prayer requests?
* Can we ask for anything?

Yes and no. God wants us to ask for what is good and right – to pray his will. We are to pray for what Heaven wants.

**What to pray for – what not to pray for: Ask yourself… 4 Questions.**

1. **Is this God’s will for you? (already revealed in Scripture) Yes - Pray**

* Why do we tend to pray about things God has already spoken on?

Relationship issues, money issues, etc. When God has already spoken – don’t pray for direction – pray for the strength to do it.

1. **Is this something that honors God? Yes – Pray**

* What are things that honor god? Human life, family, marriage

If it directly disobeys what God has spoken – don’t bother praying

If it dishonors God, hatred, revenge, war, harm lives, violence – no

**James 4:2-4**

1. **Is this a request of selfishness or blessing others? Blessing – Pray**

Kingdom work, spread the hope of Jesus, to be a blessing to others

It is not a sin to have nice things - but the purpose of those things is to honor God with them and bless others them.

* How can we bless others with what God has given us?

(No need to look up or read these verses – they are there for additional study at home - **2 Cor 9:6-8, 1 Tim 6:17-19** says we are blessed to be a blessing – and to enjoy it.)

1. **Is this drawing you closer or further from God? Closer – Pray**

* Should I ask forgiveness or to forgive a person? – yes yes yes
* Should I pray for a job or activity that can negatively affect my walk w/ God? No.

**THE DILEMMA**

(No need to look up or read these verses – they are there for additional study at home - **Isaiah 46:10, Psalm 115:3, Psalm 135:6, Matthew 6:8, Psalm 139:1-3)**

* The bible says that God is all powerful and knows all things, if this is all true and God knows everything, why pray?

**1. Because Jesus prayed – Luke 6:12, 5:16**

Like baptism he didn’t need it – but he knew we needed it. He prayed to show us how to pray and why to pray and how often to pray.

**2. Because God call us to pray - Matthew 7:7-8, Romans 8:26-27**

Invited to, challenged to, commanded to - can even be a sin not to

Nothing you say surprises God. He knows our secret thoughts, hidden motives, unspoken dreams, & what you’re dealing with – still pray

* How can this be liberating and freeing in our pray life?

Because God knows everything - I don’t have to shout, haggle, try to make him understand. I don’t have to go into a long explanation, prayer formula, or beg. He knew the message before I ever sent it. But he still says – send it.

**3. Because it expresses our total dependence on God – Philippians 4:6-7**

God doesn’t need our prayers – we pray not for his good, but for ours. It teaches us to rely on the one who is charge and bring peace.

**4. Because God uses our prayers to accomplish His will**

We see again and again in scripture God’s hand working thru his people’s prayers for his glory**.** We pray because He is God and we are not. If we believe God is in charge – we pray. And then we stand back and watch.

**5. Because prayer to God is and always about relationship**

Prayer is not a something – it is a someone. Prayer is about growing in our trust and understanding our God and Father. The goal is not to pray – but to be with and walk with God.

* Why do you think this is so important to remember when we pray?

Prayer creates an opportunity for an encounter with God. Something greater than prayer - The Lord Himself.

**One last verse - 1 John 5:14-15**

* What does this verse tell you about prayer?

**Let’s pray together**