



STUDY GUIDE

June 19, 2022

Message Series:
Message Title:
Teaching Pastor:

Oh Brother
The Power of Prayer
Elijah Schiarelli

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Share your favorite (appropriate) dad joke.

Pray:

Dear God, help clear our minds to be able to solely focus on You during this time. We know that You answer when we call to you, our righteous God. Give us relief from our overwhelming anxieties and heal our broken hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Get Started:

When you consider how you pray, would you say it's more about asking for things, or telling God how great He is, or simply just listening to hear from God?

"The "prayers of a righteous person" that James talks about was always intended to be read with the understanding that people on their own aren't righteous. Not me, not you - no one is righteous based on anything they've done. Righteousness is only available to you and me because Jesus paid for it with His life on the cross. He made a way for anyone who follows Him to be considered righteous even though none of us deserve it. God cares for every one of us deeply, but He doesn't have to do anything for any of us, and it's only by His goodness that He does at all." -Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Read James 5:13-18.

- What do you think might be obstacles that keep God from hearing your prayers? Do you see yourself as a "righteous person" referred to in verse 16? How is this understanding necessary when you pray according to James?

Read Matthew 21:18-22.

- When was a time when you saw your prayers answered in a way that you would describe as miraculous?

Watch and Discuss Video: (approx. 11:40 minutes)

"Prayer is a conversation between me and God through which God, who wants to hear my gratitude and needs, can move in powerful ways in my everyday life. Despite what our culture might suggest to us, prayer is not a one way street. It has always been a space where we can directly address God and He can respond to us and in so doing, there's a mysterious effect on the things we care about and a palpable effect on us, too." -Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

- Share how you felt while doing the guided prayer exercise. Did God speak anything to you? Did you sense that God heard you? What would you like to share about that experience with others?

Reflect and Commit:

"I think most of us view prayer as more of a ritual to be practiced regularly rather than a relationship to be invested in, which is what it really allows us to do." -Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Read Matthew 6:9-13.

- What impact has the Lord's Prayer had on your life? Is it a regular part of your prayer life?

Sometimes well-known words, even extremely valuable ones, can start to feel very familiar or memorized to us rather than actively engaging in a relationship with God. Pray the following paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer by theologian Dallas Willard as if you were praying the Lord's Prayer for the first time.

**Dear Father always near us,
 may your name be treasured and loved,
 may your rule be completed in us-
 may your will be done here on earth in
 just the way it is done in heaven.
 Give us today the things we need today,
 and forgive us our sins and impositions on you
 as we are forgiving all who in any way offend us.
 Please don't put us through trials,
 but deliver us from everything bad.
 Because you are the one in charge,
 and you have all the power, and the glory too is all yours-forever-
 which is just the way we want it!**

- How does reading this paraphrase of this well-known prayer affect you? Does it make it feel different or new at all?
- Take at least 2 minutes to quietly pray and sense God's presence.

Pray:

Dear Lord, help us to truly know and to feel how loved we are by You. Enable us to view ourselves as You see us, made fully righteous in Jesus alone. Let our faith far outweigh any unbelief, let our gratitude be rooted in the fact that You are faithful watching over Your Word to perform it. Help us to know You more, to love You more, and to walk closer with You day by day. In Jesus' name. Amen.