



STUDY GUIDE

February 26, 2023

Message Series:

Dangerous Prayers

Message Title:

Expand My Influence

Teaching Pastor:

Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min).

Have you ever done anything fun that was considered dangerous?

Pray:

Dear Lord, we come before You expectant that You are here with us and desire great things for our lives, greater than we can imagine. Free us from our limited thinking and help us to dig in and learn how our lives could better impact others. We are open to learning more and need Your wisdom and understanding to know what steps to take. We trust You and the direction You have for our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Get Started: (20 min.)

- Have you ever thought of yourself as an influencer? Why or why not?
- Have you ever read or heard about the book Prayer of Jabez by David Wilkinson? What has been your experience with this prayer? Even if you haven't heard of the book, have you ever prayed this kind of prayer for God to expand your influence? What came of it?

Read Matthew 5:13-16 & Matthew 28:18-20.

- In what ways is it a privilege and a responsibility to represent Jesus? Do you sense this for your life? What recent example can you share that gives evidence to this kind of living?
- This scripture expresses that we should live in a way that is appealing to others. What can you adjust to add more light and value to others so as to influence them better?

*"If we will look towards heaven and ask God out of our broken heart and out of our sense of His voice to **"Expand my influence"**, THAT is a prayer He is guaranteed to answer. Because we're now not looking for an enlarged territory for the sake of our personal empire, but for the cause of the Kingdom of God. Our hearts hurt for what hurts God's heart. Our ears hear His voice leading us here or there to be the change. And this prayer - Expand my Influence, is a prayer of action, so that we actually make the world a better place." - Pastor Brian Hughes*

Watch and Discuss Video (running time 11 minutes, 15 minute discussion)

Read 1 Chronicles 4:10 & Matthew 25:23.

- Anywhere you go you are representing Jesus. What are the places or situations with which you are most prone not be faithful with the trust given you?

- Where is God currently calling you to invest the resources, he has given you?

Reflect and Commit: (15 min.)

Read Daniel 12:3 & John 14:12.

- What is your response to these scriptures? What do they mean to you personally?

“Listen, you can believe that God wants to do greater things in you, because he does. You can claim the promise that God has grander vision for your life, because he does. You can count on God to grant your request for greater influence, because he will, when you ask for influence that will make the lives of other people better. Jesus Christ did not come so that you could live a life of luxury, but so that you could live a life of significance. Jesus said he didn’t come to be served but to serve and what he meant was that his expanded territory wasn’t about HIM it was the disenfranchised and the broken and the discarded. Let our expanded influence follow His lead and let’s believe that God will grant our request, because he will...” -Pastor Brian Hughes

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear Lord, we approach You with confidence knowing that You hear us and will answer us if we pray according to Your will. We know life could be better for many of those around us. We are listening to Your guiding voice showing us the way to go. We are ready to respond and move, to go and do, so that You can expand our influence and work through us to make this world a better place for Your glory. We ask that You help us to live the fullest lives possible through Your son, Jesus Christ and it's in His powerful name we pray, Amen.