

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

### *Teach Us to Pray: Why Pray?*

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*March 1, 2020*

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** Did you have any prayer traditions growing up? Discuss!

**Reading:** 1 John 5:13-15

#### **Outline:**

- I. We pray because of who God is (v13).
  - a. Your image of God will determine the frequency, intimacy, and honesty of your prayers.
  - b. God's fundamental disposition towards you is one of grace and love.

**Q: When you think of God, what image comes to mind?**
- II. We pray because of what God promises (v14).
  - a. God promises to hear you when you pray.
  - b. When we pray, we aren't talking to an impersonal force but a person. The way to get to know a person is by talking to them.

**Q: Do you see prayer as a two-way conversation?**
- III. We pray because of what God does (v15).
  - a. Again and again throughout the scriptures, we see God answer prayers.
  - b. While God doesn't always answer prayers how we think he should, he is always faithful.

**Q: What prayers has God answered in your life?**

#### **Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) When/how do you usually pray?
- 2) What is the most challenging thing about praying?
- 3) Does God always answer prayers?
- 4) Where do you listen/look for God's responses when it seems like he is silent? Do you find him there?
- 5) Think of a prayer it seems God did not answer. Looking back, can you identify a way God worked in response to the prayer that you missed before?

#### **Suggestions for further study:**

- Genesis 18:22-33      **Q: How did Abraham's prayer affect God's action in the world?**
- Mark 5:21-43      **Q: What is Jesus' response when Jairus prays for something seemingly impossible (raising his daughter from the dead)?**
- Acts 12:1-12      **Q: Have you had a prayer answered at the "last second"?**

**Closing Prayer:** "God, we thank you that you are a God who hears us and meets us as we pray. You're not some impersonal life force, but our heavenly Father. You invite us to come to you as your sons and daughters and put our requests, gratitude, lives before you. We thank you that you've made that way for us by sending your son Jesus. Because of Him and His work on the cross nothing is in the way of us approaching you. We pray that we would pray what we've got, wherever we're at. May we come to you, experience you, and meet you in prayer. Amen."