

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

### *Teach Us to Pray: What to Pray*

*Pastor Gabe Kasper*

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**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:** What's the craziest thing you've asked God for?

**Reading:** James 5:13-18

#### **Outline:**

- I. Pray about everything going on in your life (v13).
  - a. We're called to turn all things, whether good or bad, into prayer to God.
  - b. Prayer continually sets your mind on the reality that Christ is the fundamental operating principle of your life.

**Q: *Is your first move in challenging situations to pray? What about celebrations?***
- II. Pray with and for others (v14-16).
  - a. As Christians, we're meant to walk in prayer together.
  - b. There's power in praying for others, whether physical ailments or their spiritual walk.

**Q: *Do you have people in your life you pray with?***
- III. Pray for the world (v17-18).
  - a. God moves powerfully in the lives of people in response to prayer.
  - b. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God is running to meet you in prayer in any and all circumstances.

**Q: *Are there people in your life who don't know Jesus that you can pray for?***

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

- 1) Do you struggle to find words to pray?
- 2) Is it difficult for you to remember to pray during the good times?
- 3) Are you living as if Christ is the fundamental operating principle of your life?
- 4) Who are you walking with spiritually? How do you support each other?
- 5) Have you ever felt skeptical in your prayers for the world? Do they really work?

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

- Colossians 3:1-4      **Q: *Do you live as though Christ is your life?***
- Hebrews 4:14-16      **Q: *What's your reaction to hearing that Jesus can sympathize with you?***
- Ephesians 6:10-20      **Q: *Do you regularly pray for other believers?***

**Closing Prayer:** *"Lord God, we thank You that you are a God that runs to us. That in Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows what it's like, who has been tempted in every way that we are and yet was without sin, that we might know you. On His account, and because of what He has done for us, we are bold to pray to you. We come to you in any and every circumstance in our lives, and we know that you hear us. God, we pray on behalf of those who are sick and hurting, those who are suffering spiritual distress and feeling guilt and shame. We pray for our world, that those who are far from you would be brought near and that your Spirit would again renew and revive this place. We lift all these up to you Lord, and ask that you'd continue to teach us to pray. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen."*