

WEEK 4

PRIORITIZE PRAYER

Take some time to discuss the previous week's readings and/or challenges. Here are some things to discuss:

➔➔ Celebrate a "win" that you had in the Red Letter Being Challenge over the past week.

➔➔ Share a struggle.

➔➔ What did God reveal to you during the readings and/or challenges this past week?

Share with the Group what type(s) of milk they would find in your fridge right now and why this type(s)?

Watch Red Letter Being Challenge Video 4 – Prioritize Prayer

Looking back at just the last three days, if God granted every prayer request you made, how would the world be different today?

Has God ever answered one of your prayers? If so, describe for the Group.

Is there any prayer request that has not been answered that you'd like to share with the Group?

Read the following verses and talk about how Jesus prioritized prayer in each:

- **Mark 1:35:** Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.
- **Luke 5:16:** But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.
- **Luke 6:12:** One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

- **Mark 6:41:** Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people.
- **Matthew 26:36, 39, 44:** Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” 44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

The above verses are just a small sampling of the times in which we see Jesus praying. We see Jesus praying alone, early, often, consistently, in nature, in solitude, overnight, before miracles, to offer thanksgiving, in the midst of difficulty, and even when He doesn't like what's ahead. Prayer was always a priority in the life of Jesus in all circumstances.

Describe, if any, what your current habits, or rhythms look like when it comes to prioritizing prayer. What is going well? What could be going better?

Do you believe there is power in prayer? If so, do your current habits reflect this belief?

Rank yourself on a scale of 1-10 (where 1 is “very poor” and 10 is “excellent”) on how you feel you are doing at implementing this practice of prioritizing prayer in your life. If comfortable, share that number with the Group.

CLOSING THOUGHT AND PRAYER

Read James 5:16: “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

Challenge for the Week: Make prayer the very first thing you do every day of this week. Whether it's for one minute, five minutes, or one hour, do nothing without talking to God first. You may need to set a reminder. That reminder could be on your phone, or a sticky note on your coffeemaker or shower head. If you want assistance on how to pray, or a tool to help you stay consistent in your prayer, please download the Echo Prayer App.

Spend time as a Group praying for the requests that were mentioned earlier and close with saying the Lord's Prayer together:

**OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE THY NAME.**

**THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.**

**GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD;
AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS
WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS
AGAINST US.**

**AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL. FOR THINE
IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND
THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER.**

AMEN.

