

# God

## WE NEED YOU

### Pray for Your Church Leaders

#### Message Reflection Guide

**Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24** Paul asked the church in Thessalonica to pray for him and his fellow workers (1 Thessalonians 5:25). To the church in Colossae, he wrote, “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak” (4:2-4). The writer to the Hebrews, after calling them to obey their leaders and submit to them (3:17), wrote “Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things” (verse 18).

If Paul and the other disciples needed prayer, how much more so do those who lead, shepherd, and oversee us in the church! And they need our prayers, not just when there is controversy in the church. Not just when they are ill. Not just when there is a budget shortfall or a search is on for a new pastor. But all the time. We need to be in regular prayer for our pastors, elders, deacons, and their families. As Matthew Henry noted regarding Hebrews 13:17, “The more earnestly the people pray for their ministers, the more benefit they may expect from their ministry.” The more we pray for our church leaders, the more we can expect God to use our churches to impact the Kingdom for the gospel. – Christina Fox

### CONVERSATION STARTER

What is it about prayer that makes it so vital for our personal discipleship and the health of our church?

### GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES **Read Exodus 17:8-16**

**Read Ephesians 6:10-20** – The need to wear armor tells us that the battle is intense and dangerous. What is the significance of each piece of the armor of God?

On Sunday Pastor Jason said “**When you pray for the leaders in our church, you join them in battle for the sake of accomplishing Kingdom work.**” How do the Amalekites symbolize the evil powers of this world? What does this account tell us about the importance of leaders who prayerfully depend on God?

**God calls church leadership into battle. Read Deuteronomy 25:17-18** How does this description of the attack illustrate the wicked ways of our enemy? How can rest prepare you for spiritual battle?

**God calls the people to pray for church leadership. Read Acts 6:3** Our leaders are called to depend on God for wisdom, guidance, and discernment. Just as Aaron and Hur supported Moses, how can you support and encourage the leaders at Iron Mill?

God calls all of us to find safety & victory under His banner through prayer. Read Psalm 60:1-5  
This passage uses the phrase “a banner for those who fear you” How would you describe a healthy fear of God? What makes a “God given victory” more desirable than a “man made victory”?

## CHALLENGE

God has called us all to battle to advance His Kingdom. What can you do to remind yourself to be praying for our church leaders often? In what way do you sense God would like to use you to encourage a church leader this week?