

If my people pray

WHY PRAY? Psalm 116:1-14 Community Group Discussion Guide

A Summary of Prayer by John Piper - God created the universe and all that is in it to display the riches of the glory of his grace. Therefore all persons should act in a way that calls attention to the glory of God's grace. The obedience and service of God's people will glorify him most when they consciously and manifestly depend on him for the grace and power to do what they do. Prayer for God's help is one way that God preserves and manifests the dependence of his people on his grace and power. The necessity of prayer is a constant reminder and display of our dependence on God for everything, so that he gets the glory when we get the help. When the Spirit inspires and directs the groanings in our hearts, the ultimate purpose of the universe happens: God gets the glory because God the Spirit creates the groanings in us; God gets the glory because God the Father is the one who hears and performs what the Spirit asks; God gets glory because God the Son purchased for sinners every blessing they ever receive; and God gets glory because our hearts are made the theater for this divine activity, so that we know and experience God's gracious intercession for us and consciously give him thanks and praise.

Conversation Starter

How are you doing personally? What has been good in your life and what feels like a challenge?

Getting Into The Scriptures

Read aloud 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Psalm 116 1-14.

Pastor Jason said "Prayer is an opportunity to experience the love of God and to express our love for Him." How have you experienced the love of God recently?

We pray because God is listening. Is it easy or difficult for you to believe that God is listening? Why so?

We pray to depend on God. In what areas of your life do you depend on God? What areas of life do you try to accomplish in your own strength and need to surrender to Him?

We pray to know God. What are three words that you would use to describe God? What word that you have heard to describe God that you find difficult to believe or trust?

We pray to glorify God. What are three things that you are thankful to God for right now? How are you seeing Him work in your life?

Making It Real

Describe your daily conversations with God. What types of things do you regularly pray for? How would you like to grow in the spiritual discipline of prayer?