

“Pray Big!”

Series: “Live Big” (2 of 3)

Open: What do you tend to spend your time praying about in a typical week?

Explore: Read Matthew 7:7-11.

Matthew 5-7 is known as the *Sermon on the Mount*. In this section Jesus teaches on attitude, true discipleship, personal relationships, tithing, fasting, the cure for anxiety, judging others, building a firm foundation for life, and prayer.

1. Why do you think Jesus used the words, “ask”, “seek,” and “knock” to describe the way we should pray (vs. 7-8)? According to Jesus what is the result of those who “ask”, “seek,” and “knock”?
2. How did Jesus suggest a loving parent would not respond to their child when asked for bread or fish (vs. 9-10)? Do you believe the bread and fish represent “needs” or “wants” in this illustration? Why is that an important detail to prayer?
3. When compared to God, what is true about the character of even the best parent (vs. 11)? What point is Jesus making about prayer with that statement?
4. The Bible portrays God as ready and eager to answer your prayers. Is that different from how you think God feels about your prayers? If so, how?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. Okay, be honest: when was the last time you prayed for something really small and seemingly insignificant, like a parking place? What happened?
2. What does the account of Zechariah tell you about how God can answer even the biggest prayer? How have you seen God answer prayer in your own life?
3. How would you summarize a “pin point” prayer to someone who is learning to pray? In what way will praying pin point prayers change your prayer time?
4. Why do people hesitate when it comes to asking God to answer big prayer requests? What have you been afraid to ask God for recently?
5. If you are married, what steps can you take this week to incorporate prayer into your marriage? If you are single, which prayer tip did you find to be the most helpful?

Live:

As a group: Divide into sub-groups (women / men) for this section. What is the biggest, God-sized request you need to make to God today? Pray specifically for one another – then follow up with an email or phone call during the week.

On your own: In light of what you’ve learned from the lesson, how will your prayers be different this week? What prayer requests will you start making to God this week that you haven’t previously?

Listening Guide Notes

“*She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.*”

-Proverbs 31:25 (NIV)

^[11] “*Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.*” ^[12] *When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.* ^[13] *But the angel said to him: ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.’”* **-Luke 1:11-13 (NIV)**

Pin Point Prayers are:

1. Biblical
2. Specific
3. Big

Pray for Your Marriage.

“*I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.*”

-Jeremiah 24:7 (NIV)

“*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*” **-Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)**

Pray in Your Marriage.

^[19] “*Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.*” ^[20] *For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.*” **-Matthew 18:19-20 (NIV)**

Couples who pray together have a divorce rate of 1% or less.

Tips for Praying Together:

1. Pray about praying together.
2. Talk about it first.
3. Remove distractions.
4. Don’t preach or criticize.
5. Thank God for your blessings.
6. Pray in the ordinary.
7. Pray in the momentous.
8. Practice snowflake praying.