

8/2/2020

We Pray for One Another

1. Motivate

When have you really enjoyed being a part of a group?

2. Transition

Our relationships are strengthened when we do fun things together as a group.

- Our own lives are enriched when we pray as a group.
- More important, the Church is strengthened as we pray.

3. Bible Study

3.1 Pray for Christ's Power and Presence

Listen for Paul's prayer request.

Ephesians 3:14-17a (NIV) For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

What indicates the earnestness and urgency of his prayer?

To whom is God the Father?

According to the passage, what was Paul's request?

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When have you experienced something that was obviously an answer to prayer?

What is the source and the means by which the believers could be strengthened?

Why might these early Christian believers need God's strength in church life?

Why do *we* need God's strength at work in our lives and churches?

What does it look like to be empowered by God's Spirit, strengthened with His Spirit?

Note the resource Paul mentions from which God will provide strength ... *out of his glorious riches*. Consider that we should keep that in mind as we pray for one another and for our own concerns.

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3.2 Pray to Know God's Love

Listen for references to love.

Ephesians 3:17b-19 (NIV) And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God..

Paul speaks of being “rooted and grounded in love.” What do you think he had in mind?

What does Paul want his readers to comprehend?

What does it mean to “know” the love of Christ?

What facets of God's love are the most amazing to you? How does knowing you are loved by God give you confidence and assurance?

How is it possible to “be filled to the measure of all fullness of God”? God is infinite. What is Paul trying to communicate here?

3.3 Pray God is Glorified

Listen for extent of God's power.

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV) Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

What does Paul affirm about the ability of God to respond to our requests or even our thoughts?

How does Paul describe God's abilities in this passage?

“Glory” describes God's splendor. To glorify is to ...

What words or phrases does Paul use to *glorify* God, to describe His splendor?

Why do you think praising/glorifying God should be such an important part of our prayers? What are some reasons that God deserves our praise?

How might ending your prayer time with a doxology like Paul's here, build your faith?

Application

Confess.

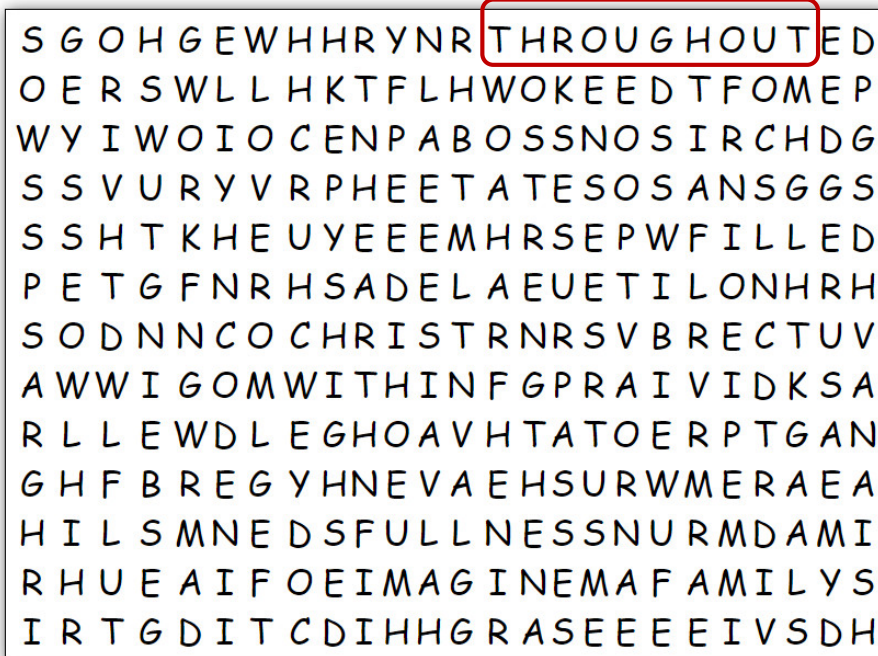
- Realign your prayer life in a more God-centered, others-focused direction.
- Confess to God the ways you've prayed in self-centered ways.

Pray.

- If you're not in a regular discipline of prayer, begin now.
- Keep a journal of your prayer requests to ensure you are also praying for the spiritual and physical needs of others.

Pray together.

- The best way to grow in praying together in Christ's church is by praying together in Christ's church!
- Commit to a regular time to meet and pray with one or two other believers from your Bible study group.



AMEN
 ASK
 BEING
 CHRIST
 CHURCH
 DEEP
 DERIVES
 DWELL
 EARTH
 ESTABLISHED
 EVER
 FAITH
 FAMILY
 FATHER
 FILLED
 FULLNESS
 GENERATIONS
 GLORIOUS
 GLORY
 GRASP
 HEART
 HEAVEN
 HIGH

IMAGINE
 IMMEASURABLY
 INNER
 KNEEL
 KNOW
 KNOWLEDGE
 LONG
 LOVE
 MEASURE
 MORE
 NAME
 POWER
 PRAY
 RICHES
 ROOTED
 SAINTS
 SPIRIT
 STRENGTHEN
 SURPASSES
 THROUGHOUT
 WIDE
 WITHIN
 WORK



Well, HUMPH! This collection of letters is a mess! Someone needs to find the words ... that's your job. Be aware that the words will go up, down, left, right, and diagonally. If you get them all, it's worth TWO book reports. Humph ... I ~~bet~~ venture to say you can't do it. If not, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y4bu29vp> There's other instructive activities, also. You probably need them!