

WEEK EIGHTEEN, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapters 1-3, *Pray Like It Matters*

Our focus for the next four weeks is prayer. Our emphasis will be Bro. Steve's book, *Pray Like It Matters*. It is one of the most practical, encouraging, challenging, and passionate books on prayer that you can read. **It is important to note, like all of the spiritual disciplines, the issue regarding prayer is not what we know, but how we live.** In words you have heard me often say, "You teach what you know, **you reproduce what you are.**" Your **leading, your teaching** will only be as effective as **your praying** is.

Please make it a priority in your group to spend quality time in prayer each week.

The following are given to aid you as you lead the discussion this week and apply the truths from Chapters 1-3. It is not imperative for you to use these questions or to cover them all.

The first question is a more general one, to get your discussion started. **What word characterizes your prayer life? Okay, two words if necessary.**

Chapters 1 and 2 center on "The Priority of Prayer." **On a scale of 1-10, how much of a priority is prayer in your life at this time? If a person is going to live a God-honoring, God-pleasing life, how much of a priority should prayer be?**

Our memory verse this week is Mark 1:35. It states, "In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went away to a secluded place and was praying there." In what ways should our lives model Jesus' priority of prayer?

In chapter 3, we read about the Lord's Prayer. There are several questions that can challenge us regarding Jesus' pattern for prayer.

Is there a general pattern to your prayer or are you more prone to simply "jump in" and start telling the Lord your concerns and needs?

How much focus do you normally give to “hallowing His name,” worshipping God?

Do you ever praise God or pray to God, employing His name? Do you believe that is an action that pleases God? If so, how will praying His name become a reality to you?

Our verse next week is James 5:16.