Weekly Bible Reading - July 2019

July's readings will focus our thoughts on the subject of prayer. We will look at teachings about how to pray, what to pray for, what to expect from our prayer and the need to be constant and faithful in prayer. Finally, we will look at examples of prayer in both the old and new testaments.

//July 7// - How to Pray
Matthew 6:5-15, Luke 11:1-13
These passages give us teaching about how **not** to pray, Jesus' model prayer for his disciples and finally an insight into how God receives/reacts to our prayers.

- Matthew 6:1-5 What are the key teachings about how we should not pray and where we pray? Do you have a "prayer closet"?
- Spend time reading Jesus' model prayer in both Matthew 6 and Luke 11. What are some things you need to change in your prayer life based on these passages?
- Do you see God as your father, wanting to hear from you and answer your prayers?

Prayer Examples:

Luke 1:46-56 - Mary's prayer of Thanksgiving
Luke 1:57-80 - Zechariah's prayer of praise at the birth of John

//July 14// - Our Prayer List
1 John 5:14-16, Ephesians 1:18, Matthew 5:44, Matthew 26:41, James 5:16, 1 Timothy 2:1-2

- List all the types of requests on your prayer list. Is your list balanced? Does it look like the requests in these passages or are your requests weighted more toward things in this life?

Prayer Example:

Daniel 9:1-19 - A prayer of confession from a man of incredible faith and trust in God

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//July 21// - What should I expect from praying to God?
1 John 5:14-15, II Chronicles 7:14, Mark 11:24, Proverbs 15:8, Psalms 102:17, Romans 8:26, James 4:3

- God longs to hear our prayers. When we ask in faith knowing that He hears us, we have already received what we ask. We may not see it now but we already have an answer from God.
- A humble heart turning to God in prayer seeking it to be healed will find forgiveness and restoration from God. Do you have a humble heart as you seek God in prayer? Do you believe He will restore you?
- James 4:3 tells about believers who do not receive what they ask for in prayer. The reason is that their prayers are for selfish motives. Do you have requests that fall into this category?

Prayer Examples:

Jonah 2:2-9 - Prayer of salvation of Jonah
1 Samuel 2:1-10 - A prayer of praise by Hannah

//July 28// - Being Faithful in Prayer
Ephesians 6:18, Matthew 26:41, Romans 12:12, Luke 18:1-8, Philippians 4:6, Colossians 4:2, I Thessalonians 5:17

- In the first 3 weeks of studying prayer, we have learned about how to pray, what to pray for and what to expect. Yet, all of this does not matter if we are not devoted and faithful in prayer.
- Do you find praying to be difficult? Are you convicted, as I am, that you have not been as faithful and devoted to prayer as we are taught in those passages? Will you share your struggle with several close believers and ash them to encourage you in this area of your Christian walk?
- Meditate on the parable of Luke 18:1-8:

Why did Jesus tell this parable?
What does this teach you about prayer?
What is the relationship between prayer and faith being taught in verse 8?

Prayer Examples:

Ephesians 1:15-23 - Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus
I Chronicles 29:10-20 - David's prayer concerning building the temple in Jerusalem