

## Summer Volunteer Mentorship – Session 4 - Prayer

*We believe that God hears and answers the prayer of faith, in accordance with His own will, for the sick and afflicted.*

– BCM Int'l Statement of Faith

*We recognize that without the Lord we can do nothing. We demonstrate our dependence on Him through prayer at every point of our lives and ministries.*

– BCM Int'l Values Statement

I've always struggled with prayer, and I suspect that you have too, at least at times. It's hard to wrap our heads around how our simple, oft-distracted prayers interact with the will of a sovereign God, who 'already knows what we need', and has known us 'since before the foundations of the earth', but Scripture assures us that prayer is important for the believer *and* has power – we are both commanded to pray and encouraged to pray. It is a duty *and* a privilege. We should pray, and amazingly, we *can* pray with confidence!

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### **Read 1 John 5:13-15 together.**

Q. How might understanding (and believing) what God has provided for us in the gospel give us confidence when we pray? How might it encourage us to pray more faithfully?

Q. What do you think 'if we ask anything according to his will he hears us' means? How might that (and v.15) affect how we think about prayer? *See James 4:3, John 15:15,16.*

### **Read Hebrews 4:14-15 together.**

In the Old Testament, the High Priest represented the people of God before God through prayer, sacrifice, and inquiring about the will of the Lord (*see Leviticus 4, 16, and Numbers 27 for examples*). It was an important role, but a temporary one – how does Jesus replace the need for a 'normal' high priest, and how does that affect our prayer life? (*see Hebrews 8, 9 for more on this, particularly 8:1-7, 9:11-14*).

### **Read Matthew 6:5-15 together.**

Q. This is likely a very familiar passage! What examples of prayer are given here (both negative and positive)?

Q. What is the attitude that we are to approach God with?

Q. How does this passage give us an example of 'asking according to his will' (*from 1 John 5*)?

Q. What do you think the 'praying in secret' part (v. 6) means? How can we apply that to our prayer lives?

### **For Application/Reflection**

Q. How can developing a healthy pattern of prayer help you serve this summer?

Q. How can you serve your team through prayer? How might praying together with other believers be a blessing?

**1 John 5:13-15** – “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have towards him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”

**Hebrew 4:14-15** – “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

**Matthew 6:5-15** – “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard by their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”