



# AWAKEN TO PRAYER

May 30 | Discussion Guide

(~120 minutes needed)

## **Begin with Scripture, silence + prayer (5 minutes)**

**Read all of Psalm 86**, a prayer of David, to begin your time together. *This week's topic is "Awaken to Prayer" so the purpose of this reading is to use a prayer from the bible to inform how we ought to pray!*

After you finish reading the passage, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together – that your conversation, your words, etc. will be pleasing to God and uplifting to others.

## **Recap from last week's devotions and intro questions (5-10 minutes)**

Spend some time talking about what resonated with you from your devotions this past week. Once finished, have each person share a bit of what their rhythm of prayer looks like. Use this conversation to kick off discussion for the evening.

**Split into smaller co-ed groups for Scripture, discussion, + prayer (30-40 minutes).** *There are several questions here, pick some out that you think your group needs to talk through.*

- What resonated with you from this weekend's sermon? What challenged you? What was something you heard in a fresh way?
- **Read James 5:13-20.**
- What does James want you to know about prayer from these verses?
- In his sermon, Eric talked about praying in all circumstances (even quoting the infamous MC Hammer to do so!). Even though we hear that our first instinct should be to pray about something...*why should we do that? Why pray?*
- In this sermon, Eric also pointed out how often Jesus prayed (in the morning, late at night, alone, with people, during important decisions, etc.). When do you pray most often?
- Do you tend to go to God in prayer more in the good times or in the bad times of life? Explain. What would it look like for you to pray in all situations?
- How much is your rhythm of prayer modeled after your family instead of being modeled after Jesus? In an ideal world, what would you like for your rhythm of prayer to be like?

- What are other Scriptures that talk about prayer that might help inform your discussion on prayer (see, for example, passages like **Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Matthew 6:5-13; Psalm 3; Jonah 2:2-9; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Philippians 1:9-11**)?
- In your smaller groups, use the above Scriptures as prompts for prayer. Have each person pick one Scripture, read over it, and then say a prayer for the whole group based off of the passage that they chose. It doesn't have to be fancy. The goal here is to allow God's words to shape our own!

**Transition back to one large group for recap + discussion (20 minutes)**

- Have each smaller group share some highlights from their time together.
- How can you practice prayer with your spouse, kids, significant other, a friend, or with your life group more intentionally this week?
- Take some time to reflect on this series overall. How have you experienced an awakening or a deepening of your relationship with God as a result of this sermon series?
- What is one takeaway from James that you want to be sure to carry with you as a disciple of Jesus? How are you planning to do that?

**Transition to smaller same-gender groups for accountability (20 minutes)** *Ask some of the questions below to hold one another accountable. Don't feel like you have to use this list like a checklist. If needed, feel free to stop, dive deeper, and pray over one another.*

- In **James 5:13-20**, James exhorts us to pray in all situations. How have you failed to not go to God this week in prayer in the good times and in the bad?
- How can this group support you in living a prayerful life?
- What has prayer time been like for you this week?
- What has your time in Scripture been like this week?
- In what ways have you wrestled with temptation this week?

**Finish with intercessory prayer in your large group (20 minutes)**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.