

## GRACE NOTES

Message Series: FAMILY VALUES

Message Title: Prayer Is Essential

Date: Sunday, October 30, 2016

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**Core Value:** There is much we can do after we pray; but there's nothing worth doing until we pray.

Why pray? **BECAUSE WE HAVE A DANGEROUS ENEMY**

*“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”* (Ephesians 6:12)

*“Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”* (1 Peter 5:8)

Why prayer? **BECAUSE UNITY IN A DIVERSE GROUP IS CHALLENGING**

*“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”* (John 17:20-21)

*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* (John 13:34-35)

Why pray? **BECAUSE OUR MISSION IS BEYOND OUR ABILITY**

*“...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8)

*“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”* (Matthew 19:26)

Why pray? **BECAUSE WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THE MISSION**

*“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”* (Matthew 18:19-20)

*“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”* (James 5:16)

## STUDY NOTES

Was prayer part of your life growing up? In what way(s)?

Have you been through times when prayer seemed difficult? If so, why do you think that occasion or those occasions occurred? How did you move toward a more intimate prayer life?

Thinking back to Sunday's message, what challenged you, encouraged you, or changed the way you thought or acted?

Look back at this week's core value (on the other side of this sheet). How would you explain this to someone outside our church family?

Looking at the four reasons we should pray that were mentioned in the service -

Which stood out most to you?

What might you add to the list?

Why should believers be aware of who our enemy is and what kind of enemy we have?

Why is diversity in the church difficult?

How is diversity part of our Christian witness?

Are you somewhat overwhelmed by the mission Jesus gave to use in Matthew 28:18-20 and in Acts 1:8?

Why don't we give these commands of Jesus greater urgency?

Are you praying for someone who is far from Jesus? If not, why not?

Why is it important that we are together on our mission?

Why is it important that we pray for one another?

Read **Luke 18:1-8.**

What seems to be the point of Jesus' parable?

Was Jesus telling us that we should nag God until He reluctantly gives in?

What was the woman seeking?

How would God be different from the human judge?

What is the assurance offered by Jesus?

Why does Jesus ask whether the Son of Man will find faith on the earth? What might that have to do with the story Jesus just told?