

## C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

S2022-WEEK 3

2/13/22

### **Listen to, Learn about, and Love on one another**

- Please share with your group something special, unexpected, encouraging, or challenging this past week.

### **Getting Started with a Warm-Up:**

- Please share with your group a recent answer to pray.

### **Getting Down to Business:**

The following questions are following this format: Scripture/Observation, Application, and Prayer (SOAP).

#### **1) Scripture/Observation:**

A) Read Ephesians 6:18 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (see passages and commentaries below). Why is our persistence and consistency in prayer important? (To enable the power of prayer for us and other believers to overcome Satan's influences and live a life of faith knowing that God is always present)

“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.” (Ephesians 6:18 NLT)

Having thus called their attention to the power of prayer, the author now encourages his readers in Asia to keep on praying for all the saints. By praying for one another, Christians everywhere help fellow believers overcome the evil influences bent on destroying those whom God has called... (Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 2/10/22,  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+6&version=NLT>)

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“Never stop praying.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17 NLT)

Prayer is the constant attitude of the believer (see Ro 12:12; Eph 6:18; Col 4:2). To pray continually means that every activity must be carried on with a sense of God's presence (see Bruce, 127)... (Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 2/10/22,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians+5&version=NLT>)

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B) Read Hebrews 4:12-13 (see passage and commentary below). Explain the times when you prayed and you were conflicted with your thoughts and emotions? Why ?

“12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.”

**V 12–13: REVEALING REVELATION** The written revelation of God, the Word of God, is alive and judges even the thoughts and attitudes of the hearts of men and women. The Bible reveals what our hearts are really like when we let its searchlight focus on our lives. God sees everything, and all must give account to Him. (Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 2/10/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+4&version=NLT>)

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C) Read Matthew 26:39 (see passage and commentary below). How would you describe a passionate prayer? And how passionate are you when you pray?

‘ 39 He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” ’ (Matthew 26:39 NLT)

No matter what the pain, we must obey the mission God has given us. Jesus had lived his life in filial obedience to his Father's will; now he chose the Father's plan over his own desire (Mt 26:39, 42, 44). Being fully human, Jesus experienced the full human dread of death; because the Son is distinct from the Father, his own desire might differ from the Father's, though he was ready to submit to the Father. Jesus' obedience is thus an example for us (12:50; compare 7:21). Loving God does not always mean that we want to face what God calls us to face; it does mean that we choose to face it anyway. Thus when the test arrives, Jesus summons all his disciples to rise to face it—ready or not (26:45). (IVP New Testament Commentary Series, accessed 2/10/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+26&version=NLT>)

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D) Read Micah 7:7 (see passage and commentary below). When you pray to God are you confidently, expecting him to answer you? Why?

“As for me, I look to the Lord for help. I wait confidently for God to save me, and my God will certainly hear me.” (Micah 7:7 NLT)

Only as Micah looked to God did he find comfort and hope for his people. As light at the end of a dark tunnel, the prophet saw that God was utterly faithful (7:7, 9). (Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 2/10/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Micah+7&version=NLT>)

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**2) Application:**

A) How can these passages from scripture change your approach to prayer?

B) What characteristics of our prayer (to be consistent, persistent, honest, passionate, or expectant) will you work on this coming week?

**3) Prayer:** Remember to thank God for the amazing privilege of prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to guide you into deeper, more meaningful experiences of prayer.