



STUDY GUIDE

PRAYER **03.25.2018**

[start with prayer]

Missions Prayer Focus this week:
Mark Johnson—Church Planter of Encourage Church

[set up]

What are you thankful for this week?

What are you struggling with this week?

What have you asked God for that you didn't get? How has that impacted your prayer life?

[digging deeper]

One person reads Matthew 7:7-11 out loud while everyone reads along.

Another person reads the passage out loud.

Without looking at the Bible, a third person retells the passage in his/her own words. (Others will fill in what's missing.)

What does this passage teach about the God we pray to?

What does this passage teach about people? How does the doctrine of the sovereignty of God sometimes cause some good and godly people to limit or curtail their praying? What might you say to encourage them? (Don't give a self-righteous, holier-than-thou Sunday School answer. Enter into their pain and confusion.)

What does this passage teach about obedience, about how and why we are to pray? On a giant Post-it, write down at least 20 reasons to pray. At the bottom of the Post-it, work as a group to settle on your "Top 5 Reasons" list of the 20. Give Scripture support for your top 5.

[living it out]

In light of what we now know about Matthew 7:7-11, what is God calling you to do this week? How does God want you to obey this Scripture? (Everyone writes an "I will" statement.)

Who will you share these truths with this week? How will you live this out loud this week? Who do you know who needs to hear this?

In this upcoming week, what is going to be a challenge for you?

[end with prayer]

Close in prayer by praying over everyone's "I will" statements.

Pray for opportunities to share what you learned about prayer from Matthew 7.

Pray about the challenges that you and your group members are anticipating this week.