



Counter Culture: Week 4 — “Pray For One Another”

CONNECT: What’s one activity you’d love to learn more about (cooking, dancing, surfing, etc.)?

GROW:

1. **Read Luke 11:1.** The disciples saw Jesus perform many miracles—casting out demons, healing the sick, and raising the dead. Yet their only request was for Jesus to teach them *how to pray*. Does this change your perspective on the power of prayer? Why or why not?
2. We’ve all encountered roadblocks in our prayer life—distractions, lack of confidence, time constraints, uncertainty if God is listening, unsure what to pray, etc. What barriers have you experienced with prayer? How can we proactively overcome these hurdles?
3. **Read Hebrews 4:16.** The author of Hebrews says we can confidently and honestly approach God without guilt or shame. This also includes our conversations with Him in prayer. How should this biblical truth affect our approach to prayer?
4. **Read 1 John 5:14-15.** These two verses assure us that God hears our prayers if we ask anything according to His will. A few ways we can discern God’s will is through Scripture, other mature followers of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. How has God answered your prayers during this season? Are you still waiting for an answer in any area of your life?
5. **Read John 17:20-26.** This passage records one of Jesus’ final prayers before He’s eventually betrayed and hung on the cross. What’s noteworthy is the theme of oneness or unity for all believers. What are the implications for us in how we should pray for one another?
6. **Read Matthew 5:43-48.** Jesus tells us one of the ways we can be counter-cultural is to love our enemies by praying for them. Although we might not label someone as an “enemy,” there are still people in our lives who we may feel animosity toward. Why does Jesus challenge us to pray for our enemies? How should we expect God to respond?

PRAY: **Read Matthew 6:9-13.** The Lord’s Prayer is one of the most recited prayers from Scripture. In this prayer, Jesus provides a framework or model for how we can pray—acknowledging God’s greatness, reminding ourselves of God’s promises, confessing sin, and asking specific requests. Write a prayer using these 4 elements as a guide.

NEXT: Let’s accept Jon’s challenge to start the conversation of prayer when we wake up and to stop the conversation when we go to sleep each day over the course of this week.