

## THRIVE AT HOME – AUDACIOUS FAITH – week 4

### Monday - Prayer is the Priority- Matthew 9:37-38, 1 John 5:14

In Matthew 9:37—38, Jesus said, “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest (CSB, emphasis added).” The word for “send out” in Greek means to “propel”. So as we seek to ignite our prayers, we are going to do exactly what Jesus commanded: we are going to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers—to propel us—into his harvest. The harvest is plentiful. The opportunity for God’s Kingdom to advance is here and now. What’s the key to seeing it happen? Prayer! Prayer simply means to talk to God. It can be a conversation that happens in your heart or out loud. It can happen alone or in a group. It can happen with our feet firmly planted on the ground, or thousands of feet up in the air. But here’s the awesome thing: As we pray, God listens, speaks, and responds. The God of the Universe wants to hear from you. Not only has God initiated a conversation and invited us to speak to Him in prayer, but He also integrates our prayers into the works He is doing in the world! Wherever you are, whatever your background, no matter your sphere of influence — in the marketplace, as a stay-at-home mom, a CEO, a doctor, a teacher, a student, a lawyer, or an artist — prayer is the primary place where God’s work and your work in this world come together. As we pray, God has promised to move mountains, shake foundations, and reach the great harvest of people who have not yet come to know him. God has made it such that our small prayers make an eternal, Kingdom-sized difference! God is changing the world by His power and through our prayers!

Prayer: Lord, I pray that this is a year I see You moving in power to bring people to yourself. According to Your Word in Matthew 9:37-38, may there be more workers propelled into the harvest than ever before. Let the days ahead be marked by a great harvest all for Your glory and the advancement of Your Kingdom here on the earth. And I commit to You now that I will be a part of it. Amen.’;

### Tuesday – Jesus’ Masterclass on Prayer - Matthew 6:6-13, 1 John 5:14-15

Jesus didn’t assume we’d automatically know everything about prayer. He graciously taught His followers who wanted to learn how to pray in the Sermon on the Mount. Prayer doesn’t have to be lengthy or complicated. Prayer isn’t meant to be a public performance, but is about connecting with God. Prayer is welcomed by God. He loves to respond when we come to him. Prayer is an opportunity to worship God and acknowledge his greatness. Prayer can include asking for forgiveness, requesting provision, and seeking God’s will. Prayer advances God’s Kingdom on the earth! Our skill and sophistication don’t matter, because we don’t put our confidence in the power of our prayers. Our confidence is in the power of God, who loves us and listens to us and acts when we pray. This is why we pray. The “right words” aren’t the focus of prayer. Jesus is.

Prayer: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

### Wednesday - Prayer Fuels Our Faith - John 3:16, Hebrews 4:16, 1 Corinthians 3:9

When we see the great needs and opportunities in the world, it can be tempting to hide away from them or think we have to hustle to solve them. But we want to respond in obedience and faith and do what Jesus told us to do when faced with the challenge of a “great harvest with few workers”, and that is first to pray. We pray boldly and persistently that the Lord of the Harvest will do what He has promised to do: To send out workers. To propel us. Prayer releases His power, presence, and provision in our lives. It’s astonishing that we can even say the words, “Our Father,” as we see in Matthew 6:9. God is holy and awesome in every way, and yet He is also our Father, who not only invites us to speak to Him but also to draw near to His throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). God loves us with an everlasting love — so much so that he gave His Son for us (John 3:16). When we pray to God in the name of Jesus, we’re not praying to some impersonal or disinterested cosmic power. He knows the number of hairs on your head. He knew your destiny before you took your first breath. He chose you and approved of you. That’s how much He loves you, and it’s why He earnestly listens when you pray! As we commit to praying for a great Kingdom harvest, naming the needs of the world as well as our own, God fuels our own faith. His Spirit is at work in us, through us, and towards us as we pray, reminding us that we are more than obedient petitioners before Him, we beloved partners with Him. Prayer: Father, thank you that you love me and listen when I pray. Thank you for answering with perfect power, timing, and goodness. I name before you those in my family and community who do not know you and ask that you would send people into their lives to proclaim Jesus to them. And I pray that you would send me with wisdom and boldness wherever you are calling me to pray or speak about what you have done. Amen.

### Thursday - Hearing From God – 1 Samuel 3:8-10, Jeremiah 33:3, Hebrews 4:16, Psalms 27:14

There’s nothing quite like hearing God’s voice. One way to hear Him is through His Word. Romans 10:17 tells us, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (NKJV). But if we want to walk by faith and not by sight, if we want to hear the

Word of God and see the promises of God fulfilled, then we must keep praying and trust that God has more to share. Here are a few keys to help you: **1. Be Passionate, Even as You Wait.** 1 Samuel 3 records the story of Samuel learning to listen for God's voice. What does this mean for us? Like Samuel, we may not recognize God's voice at first. It might take time, patience, and the counsel of others to help us discern what we're hearing. Listen for Him with eagerness. **2. Have a Place for It** - Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus retreat from His disciples and the crowds to find a quiet place to pray. He did this because, even though He was and is the Son of God, He was also fully human. He faced the same struggles and distractions as we do, which is why He showed us by example the importance of getting alone to pray. Likewise, wherever you can, however you can, take moments out of your day to quiet your mind and pray. **3. Persevere In It** - If you start praying consistently each day and still find it hard to hear God's voice, don't give up. Keep pressing. Keep believing. Keep praying. Keep studying God's Word so that when He does speak, you will know it's Him! In Jeremiah 33:3, God promises, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and incomprehensible things you do not know". That's a promise worth remembering and persevering to see fulfilled! Prayer: God, I praise You because You are good and worthy to be praised. From generation to generation and age to age, You never change. You are faithful to Your promises. You are enduring in Your love. You are trustworthy in Your Word. Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening. Amen!

### Friday - It Matters to God – Psalms 121:1-8, Philippians 4:6-7

We can pray for anything. As Christine Caine says, "If it matters to you, it matters to God." If it's something we care about or worry about, it's something we can pray about. Paul encourages us in Philippians 4:6-7, "Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (CSB). What can we pray about? Paul's answer is clear: everything! Nothing is too small when it comes to God. And while those words "Don't worry about anything," might feel as if they're unsympathetic to any difficulty we face, it's important to note that Paul wrote these words while in prison. He wasn't telling us to make "Don't worry, be happy" our mantra. To ignore or minimize the reality of our circumstances would be irresponsible. But there is a path for us to experience God's peace and power in the midst of our worry and stress, and that's why Paul encourages us to "present our requests to God." Yes, God is actively involved in taking care of the entire universe and major issues of the world, but our Heavenly Father is just as involved and concerned with the details of his children's lives: our work, relationships, feelings, fears, and everyday activities. God sees you, God knows you, and God truly cares about you. If something matters to you, it matters to God. So, pray about it!

Prayer: Father, thank you that you care about feeding birds and dressing lilies, and that is just a fraction of how much you care about the details of my life and the things on my heart. Today, I name before you the things that have my attention: please show your wisdom, presence and power in these areas. And I ask that just as you care about the things that matter to me, you would shape my attention and affection towards things that matter to you. May your Kingdom come on earth, just as it is in Heaven. Amen.

## FOR FAMILIES

***Unpack this past Sunday's Next Gen at home to help your kids grow in their faith! Use a talk point in the car or around the table and have fun with the activities! Your home can THRIVE this week!***



### DINNER TABLE OR CAR RIDE QUESTIONS:



- If you could tell God one thing about your day today, what would you want Him to know?
- What is one thing you're thankful God has already given you today? What is one thing you'd like to ask Him for?
- What's one situation where you would love God's help this week? How do you think He could help you?

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### Prayer Bucket



**Directions:** Write on 6 papers the statements: Someone I'm thankful for, Something I need today, Someone to forgive, Someone to pray for, Something amazing about God. Put the papers in a jar and go around the table or in the car on a car ride drawing papers and praying. Try it out daily this week!

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**You're invited back NEXT SUNDAY for more SUMMER NEXT GEN fun, crafts and games!  
Sundays 10:15-11:30am**