

Importune Intercession

Small Group Discussion Guide

"Importune Intercession" -- Pastor Mirek Hufton

1. SERMON RECAP

Pastor Mirek Hufton taught that importunate intercession is a persistent, never-quitting prayer that stands in the gap on behalf of others who are not covering themselves in prayer. He drew from Romans 8 to show that the Holy Spirit helps our weaknesses in prayer by interceding through us with groanings that go beyond what words can express. He challenged the congregation to move beyond shallow, halfhearted praying and to press into a deeper level of Spirit-led intercession that produces real, lasting breakthrough for lost loved ones, prodigal children, unsaved spouses, and communities in need.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:26-27

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

3. ICE BREAKER

Think of a time when you kept at something -- a hobby, a relationship, a goal -- long past the point when most people would have quit. What kept you going, and how did it turn out?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Question 1

Pastor Mirek defined importunity as persisting in prayer to the point of what he called "the place of annoyance" -- refusing to take no for an answer. In Luke 18, Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow specifically so that people "always ought to pray and not lose heart." What do you think causes most

believers to lose heart in prayer before the answer comes, and what does losing heart actually cost us?

Question 2

Pastor Mirek made a distinction between the prayer of faith, which is largely personal and directed at our own circumstances, and the prayer of intercession, which involves standing in the gap for someone else. How does that distinction change the way you approach praying for an unsaved family member or a struggling friend? What does it feel like emotionally and spiritually to carry someone else's burden in prayer over a long period of time?

Question 3

He shared the story of George Mueller, who prayed daily for specific unsaved individuals for years without seeing results -- and yet one man came to faith at Mueller's graveside. Pastor Mirek also referenced Ezekiel 22:30, where God says He sought for someone to stand in the gap but found no one. What does that verse stir in you personally? Is there a person or situation in your life right now where God may be looking for someone to fill that gap?

Question 4

Pastor Mirek referenced Galatians 4:19, where Paul says he travails in prayer for the Galatians "again" -- meaning he had already birthed them once through the gospel and was now pressing in again for their spiritual maturity. He made the comment that when a new believer drifts or falls away, that is partly a prayer responsibility for those around them. How does your group currently cover new believers or spiritually vulnerable members in prayer? What would it look like to take that more seriously?

Question 5

He described a six-hour prayer meeting where the group was coached to stop praying from the surface level and to press down into their spirits -- to drill down until the groaning and the anointing began to flow. He said that the Holy Spirit will not do our praying for us but will do it with us when we yield. What practical habits or postures have helped you personally get past surface-level praying into something deeper? What gets in the way most often?

Question 6

Pastor Mirek said plainly, "If you quit on prayer, you quit on yourself. If you quit on prayer, you quit on God." He acknowledged that delay is the main thing that tempts people to unhook from intercession. Who is the "Uncle Bob" in your life -- the person you have been tempted to stop praying for because nothing seems to be changing? What would it mean to make a fresh commitment to stand in the gap for that person, starting this week?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, write down the full name of one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus -- a family member, neighbor, coworker, or employer. Set a specific time each day, even if only five minutes, to pray that person's name out loud before God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you pray beyond what you know to ask, and notice what begins to stir on the inside as you do. Bring a brief report back to your group next week about

what you experienced, even if nothing dramatic happened.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for each group member by name to receive a fresh hunger and commitment to persistent, Spirit-led prayer that does not give up when answers are delayed.
 - Pray specifically for the unsaved and spiritually wandering loved ones represented in your group, standing in the gap together as a corporate act of intercession and agreeing that no one in your circle of influence is beyond the reach of God.
 - Pray that your local church would grow into a house of genuine, fervent, Holy Ghost-empowered prayer -- one where the atmosphere of intercession makes room for healing, salvation, and breakthrough that cannot be explained apart from God.
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7. MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 7:25

"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

Prepared for small group use following the message "Importune Intercession" delivered at Powerhouse Church, Atlanta.