

Men Always Ought to Pray and Not Lose Heart

Small Group Discussion Guide

"Men Always Ought to Pray and Not Lose Heart"

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1. SERMON RECAP

In this message, I challenged us to move beyond surface-level prayer and press into a deeper, more consistent prayer life -- one that can genuinely shift the atmosphere of our families, our church, and even our nation. I shared the remarkable story of how sustained, stadium-filling prayer in South Africa helped prevent a devastating bloodbath during the transition out of Apartheid, pointing to what God can do when His people refuse to give up. My heart is simply this: prayer is not optional for the church -- especially in these last days -- it is our greatest source of strength, direction, and breakthrough.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:1 (NKJV)

"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."

3. ICE BREAKER

What is one place or time of day where you find it easiest to pray -- and why do you think that spot works for you?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Getting Honest About Our Prayer Lives

I mentioned that I've worn a rut in my carpet from praying -- and I still feel like there's another level to reach. Where would you honestly say your prayer life is right now: just getting started, somewhere in the middle, or pressing deeper? What's one thing that makes it hard to stay consistent?

2. The South Africa Story

I shared how sustained, corporate prayer -- stadiums filled with a hundred thousand people praying eight to eight -- played a crucial role in South Africa's peaceful transition out of Apartheid, when every politician in the

world predicted a bloodbath. What does that story stir up in you? Does it increase your faith, or does it feel hard to believe prayer could work on that scale? Be honest!

3. Corporate Prayer vs. Personal Prayer

I talked about both personal daily prayer and the idea of filling auditoriums and stadiums together as the body of Christ. Why do you think there is something uniquely powerful about believers praying together, not just individually? Have you ever experienced a moment in corporate prayer that surprised you?

4. Prayer and Humility

I said something I really believe: the more you pray, the more God works on your pride. There is a deep connection between genuine prayer and humility -- because prayer is an act of saying, "God, I don't have the answers, but You do." Do you agree that prayer changes us, not just our circumstances? Can you share a time when prayer shifted your own attitude or perspective more than it changed the situation?

5. The "One Hour" Challenge

Jesus asked His disciples, "Can you not pray one hour?" -- and I passed that same question on to you. What honestly gets in the way of giving God one focused, uninterrupted hour of prayer? What would have to change in your schedule or mindset to make that happen regularly?

6. Prayer for National Awakening

I painted a picture of what could happen in America if the church prayed the way South Africa did -- high schools and colleges touched by the Holy Spirit, professors finding Christ, a genuine national awakening. Do you believe that kind of revival is still possible? What would it take for you personally to become someone who prays for your city and nation, not just your own needs?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, block out one specific hour for focused prayer -- put it in your calendar right now before you leave tonight. Use that hour to pray beyond your personal needs: cover your family, your church, your city, and ask God for a fresh awakening in this nation. If you feel led, try the suggestion I made -- choose one day this week to fast and pray from morning until your evening service or a set time, and journal one thing God speaks to you during that time. Come back next week ready to share what happened.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- For personal breakthrough in prayer: Ask God to give each person in your group a genuine hunger for prayer that goes beyond duty or routine -- a falling-in-love-with-prayer experience that keeps them coming back.
- For national and spiritual awakening: Pray specifically for a move of God in schools, universities, and communities across America -- that young people would encounter the Holy Spirit in power and that a generation would turn back to Christ.

- For unity and corporate prayer: Ask God to raise up a spirit of agreement in your church -- that your congregation would become known as a house of prayer where His presence is consistently felt and where miracles happen.

7. MEMORY VERSE

Luke 18:1 (NKJV)

"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."

Leader's Note: Don't feel pressure to get through every question. Let the conversation breathe -- the Holy Spirit may take your group somewhere even better than the guide. Your job is simply to create a safe space where people can be honest about where they are and hungry for where God is calling them.