

Small Group Bible Study / Discussion

Sermon Series: *Lord, teach us to pray*

Sermon Title: What keeps prayer from being effective?
Passage: 1 John 3:18-23; 1 Timothy 4:7-10; Isaiah 1:15-17

Date: March 8, 2009
Message # 10

Think about it

- What is hypocrisy? Why is it a problem?
- What makes you want to listen to someone who is talking to you?
- What makes you want to not listen to someone who is talking to you?
- What does it take to be a godly person?

Examine it

1 John 3:18-23

- What does John tell his readers not to do? (18)
- What happens if our hearts don't condemn us? (21-22)
- What is God's command to us?

1 Timothy 4:7-10

- Of what value is training for godliness? (8)

Isaiah 1:15-17

- What does God say to His people in this passage?
- Why does God say He will not listen to their prayers?

Discuss it

- Does it ever feel like God isn't listening to you? What do you do about that?
- What do you think causes God to respond to prayer? What would cause Him not to respond?
- What does it mean to believe in the name of Jesus Christ?
- Why is loving one another important when it comes to prayer?
- How does someone train themselves to be godly? What good does that do?
- Why would God listen to anyone who sins?
- Do you believe that disciplining yourself to be godly actually impacts what happens to you after this life? How so?

Live it out

- How is your prayer life lately?
- If your prayer life is struggling, what is causing it to do so, and what can/will you do about it?
- How is your love for God showing itself these days?
- Do you want to be a more godly person? What can you do about that this week?

Pray about it

What does this study prompt you to pray about?

...something to praise God for? ...thank God for? ...confess? ...ask for?

Additional passage for meditation or memory: James 1:5-8; Matt. 5:23-24; Pro. 1:28-30; 15:8, 29; 21:13
Next week's passage: 1 John 5:13-15; Matthew 7:21-23; Acts 19:11-17