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GOD BEFRIENDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Leader, please make these available to your group.



This Thursday is the first 6:30pm Dig Deeper. Please make plans to attend and invite someone you know who can't attend church on Sundays to come with you! VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED! IF YOU ARE AVIALABLE PLEASE SCAN CODE TO COMPLETE VOLUNTEER FORM.



WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

Sign ups are open for a new study in the book of JUDE with Jackie Hill Perry. The Study begins on Jan 25 Tuesdays at 9am or 7pm



MENS BIBLE STUDY

Sign ups are open for a new study called Authentic Manhood. The Study begins on Feb 8 Tuesdays at 7pm

MISSIONS TRIP INTEREST MEETING

We're heading to Mazatlan March 15-21! If you'd like to come with us attend the interest meeting on Jan 16 in the Worship Center at 1pm.

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GOD BEFRIENDS

Week 21 | Blow Up Your Box | Genesis 18:16-33

WHEN GOD SHAPES YOUR HEART HE SHAPES YOUR PURPOSE

I have to say that the movie *Castaway* left a strong impression on me. It made me think, "If I were to be stranded on a deserted island what item would I want to have to help me survive? A volleyball, VHS tape, or ice skates like Tom Hanks?" Probably not! According to most people the one item they consider absolutely necessary in that situation is a knife. Now let's modify that question. If someone were to say to me, Derek what's the one thing you think the church can't live without in 2022, my answer would be quick and simple, prayer. Maybe that surprises you and maybe it doesn't. But when the church really has prayer, it will have everything else. Prayer is the key. Prayer is where the power is at. Prayer is the gateway to all of God's blessings. If we really learn to pray, 2022 may be one of the most amazing years ever!

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to share about the goals you have for your prayer life this year. Pray that God would collectively and individually grow your prayer experience with Him.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Pastor Derek said in the study that if you don't care about unsaved people being saved, then you probably don't know Jesus. **What do you think he meant by that? Is that a fair statement to make? Explain your answer.**

Prayer doesn't change God's heart, it gives you His heart.

2. When Jesus told His disciples to pray, "Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" He was essentially teaching them that any real work of God on earth must begin in heaven, and that happens when we pray. **Spend time discussing how God has designed prayer to be a tool through which He accomplishes His plans. Discuss how prayer works and what the conditions are for prayer to be answered.**

"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:13

3. The third lesson that we learned from Abraham’s intercession was that God wants us to be pushy, but humble in prayer. In other words, God invites us to pray with a respectful, yet fiery persistence. James describes the type of praying person as fervent. **As you consider your own prayer relationship with God what do you learn from this point and what applications can you make to your life?**

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man/woman avails much.” James 5:16

4. As a group, select some prayer petitions that you are going to consistently bring before God. **Be consistent every week to pray for them and when God answers a petition, make note of it, give Him praise and select another thing to pray for.**



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

James 5:16

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man/woman avails much.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, be determined to fervently pray for one thing according to Jesus’ will, by Jesus’ power and for Jesus’ glory. Expect God to answer in His timing and according to His will.

We will be waiting with anticipation to see and hear how God answers your prayer.