

Sunday, January 8, 2023 - "A Culture of Prayer" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Ephesians 5:15-16, John 10:14, Genesis 3:8-10, 2 Corinthians 4:7, James 5:16

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Ephesians 5:15-16a → How do we maximize the time God has given us?
- The movement of God in your life always starts with an invitation
  - He is always inviting (the initiator)
  - We have to pay attention (responder)
  - Our lives are changed because God speaks (John 10:14)
- 2 Invitations for Grace
  - 1) "I want this to be a church without curtains"
    - Radical authenticity
    - Honest/open...sharing our struggles AND victories
    - We often think "if people really knew me, they wouldn't love me"
    - Where we can be fully known and fully loved
    - Genesis 3:8-10 - tendency to hide is in our DNA
      - God knows everything about us and loves us still
      - He calls us to true/authentic relationship with Him and each other (vertical relationship affects horizontal relationships and vice versa)
    - How can we love each other if we don't know each other? (2 Corinthians 4:7)
    - Get into a group of people where you can be totally honest about your entire life
  - 2) Foster a culture of prayer
    - When we realize how much is on the line, it changes the way we pray
    - God wants our church to have a culture of prayer...we won't have it unless we participate
      - Pre-service prayer (pray for the services and people that are a part of them, listen for God)
      - Post-service prayer (praying for others)
      - Wednesday prayer (praying for our church and our leaders)
      - Restorative prayer (process what God is doing and saying)
      - 90-Day prayer challenge (text keyword below to: 313-351-8037)
        - **WIFE:** Husband praying for wife
        - **HUSBAND:** Wife praying for husband
        - **CHILDREN:** Parents/guardians praying for children
        - **STUDENTS:** Students praying for friends
        - **ADULTKIDS:** Parents praying for adult children
        - **FRIENDS:** People praying for those in their groups/sphere of influence
    - Your heart will change
    - James 5:16...things are going to change
- Anything that is worth doing is worth doing poorly
  - Practice praying
  - Spiritual discipline

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. When was a time or a season when you were making the best use of your time? What was unique or meaningful about it?
2. When was a time that you responded to God's invitation? What do you see Him do?
3. How have you lived out authenticity or seen it lived out by those around you?
4. How has your vertical relationship with God affected your horizontal relationship with others and vice versa?
5. What does it look like for you to establish a culture of prayer in your own life and home?
6. How is God calling you to invest in the culture of prayer at Grace?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

Songs from the weekend:

[Rest On Us - Upperroom] - [Graves Into Gardens - Elevation Worship] - [Build My Life - Pat Barrett] - [Goodness of God - Bethel Music]