



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Theme of the month:

Marks of a Believer

Text for the Week:

Acts 12:1-19

Message for the Week:

“Surprised by Prayer”

Theme for the Week:

Disciples of Jesus are called to pray fervently, boldly, audaciously, and persistently

Week 24

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Have you ever had a dream that seemed so real that afterward you thought it actually happened?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read [Acts 12:1-19](#) out loud.

What words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What adjectives would you use to describe your personal prayer?

Why do you think people are hesitant to pray together?

What is your most amazing prayer story?

Why are we willing to share prayer requests but hesitant to share answers to prayer/praise reports?

“Try It!”

Gathering 5-10 people (who may or may not be family members) in order to spend time praying together. Intercede together before God. Pray fervently together. Pray bold, audacious, persistent prayers for each other, for Covenant Church, for our community, for the church around the world, for the Kingdom of God.

Try it with your family after dinner, try it with your small group, try it with your friends.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer regarding the things God revealed and that you discerned in your time with God today.

Also, spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

God, why do we resist? Why do we run away from your presence? Let us once again enter your presence and grace. Fill us with your Spirit and guide us to seek you in fervent prayer. You know our insecurities and wounds. You can heal us and set us free. Enable us to spend time with you in prayer, calling and crying out to You, interceding for ourselves and others, and listening for your voice. Empower us to pray alone and with others fervently, boldly, audaciously, and persistently. Help us anticipate and recognize your answers to our prayers. AMEN.

Missional Practice for the Month: Wall Breaking / Bridge Building

A few times this month, engage in an activity that will help you break down a wall and build a bridge with someone who is different than you ethnically, socially, economically, politically, or in age. Some examples...

- Have a cup of coffee outdoors with a neighbor you don't know very well.
- Go for a walk with someone different than you.
- Take your kids to a playground in a different neighborhood.
- Get to know the parents on your child's sports team.
- Eat lunch with or hang out on break with a classmate you don't know very well at your school.