

Teen Devotion

Year C – Epiphany 2

Uncovered



One truth shared: As children of God, we have access to God through our prayers. What is the power of those prayers? Better yet, what power does God have in answer to our prayers?

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Uncovered Prayer Potential

Prayer works. It really does. It truly makes a difference. Do you believe that?

It can be hard to believe that, can't it? We say that prayer is a conversation of a believer with their God. But it's often not much of a conversation. We speak and God listens. But what does he say back? This seeming silence makes prayer difficult.

Sometimes the way that God seems to respond to our prayers also makes it difficult. We pray for someone to be healed, but they don't get better. We pray for blessing, but it never seems to come. God's answer to our prayers makes prayer difficult, especially when he seems to say, "no."

Paul wants to encourage us to pray with confidence. Why?

We pray because God so loved us that he sent us his Son. His love was born in manger and nailed to the cross. We can barely begin to understand how long and wide and deep and high God's love for us is. This truth alone inspires prayer. How can you not speak with One who loves you so much that he left heaven to be with you on earth?

We pray because God knows stuff. Like the best kind of father, God knows exactly what is good for us. He knows how that one thing isn't good and how that other thing is eternally good.

We also pray because he has power, so much power! "Imagine!" That's what Paul encourages us to do. God has power to do more than we could even ask for, more than we could even imagine. Not only does God delight in doing good things for us, but he has the power and the ability to do it.

Fathers love their children and like to do good things for them. But even fathers are limited in what they can do. God our Father has no such limitations. Imagine! Then pray away!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to know the power of praying to you. You have opened yourself up to me so that I can pray to you at any time. Help me to pray with confidence. Amen.

Foundations Teen Facilitators Guide

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Starting the Discussion: *This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

- How would you describe God to someone? What is he like? What does he look like? Be detailed.
- Why do you describe God in that way?

Connecting: *This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they've looked at it.*

- What image of God do you have in your prayers? To whom are you speaking in prayer?

Digging In: *Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- Paul describes God as “Father” (Ephesians 3:14). Jesus teaches us to pray, “Our Father.” Why do you think God choose to describe himself in this way?
- Read Ephesians 3:14-21. What does Paul want for us? Why do you think he prays for this?
- What do we know about our God that encourages us to pray?
- What challenges you in your praying to your Father? What encourages you as you consider these words?
- Pick a few of these examples as there is time. How much power is there in prayer? Which one is your favorite? Cf. Joshua 10:1-15; Isaiah 37:14-23,30-35; Isaiah 38:1-8; Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 18:1-8; John 2:1-11; James 5:13-18.
- What kinds of things does our God care about in our praying?

Conclusion: *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the “connecting question” above.*

- How has your image of God changed as we've studied prayer today? What changed? What was enhanced?
- How does this help your prayer life?