

# Rossville Church of Christ

# Doorpost Devo



September 1, 2024



## Encouragement from God's Word

### What I Love About Jesus: His Prayer Life

When we think about monumental figures in history who left a tremendous legacy, we often think about great innovation in business or technology, scientific discovery, significant victories, world-stage accomplishments, military prowess, bold leadership, accumulation of wealth, building of empires, sparking policy changes, or some other flashy achievement. When we think about the people who altered the course of history, we don't typically think about their prayer life.

## Scripture Plan: Read

Mon, Tues, Wed.:

Psalm 46 Each Night

Thurs., Fri., Sat.:

Psalm 115 Each Night

## Devo Plan

1. Mon.--Read and Pray Together
2. Tues.--Read, Pray, Ask Questions, and Discuss
3. Wed.--Read, Pray, and Think about how to Apply
4. Thurs.-Sat.--Repeat steps 1-3 with New Passage
5. Sunday--Pray and Reflect on What was Learned in Worship and Class

# Rossville Church of Christ Doorpost Devo



September 1, 2024

## Discussion Questions

Psalm 46

Discussion Question #1: How can we trust that God will help us in times of trouble? How does he help?

Discussion #2: How should our perspective change when we know that God dwells in our midst?

Discussion #3: What does it mean to “be still and know God”? How can we learn stillness and trust in our fast-paced world?

Psalm 115

Discussion #1: How do we give glory to God? In what ways are we tempted to seek our own glory?

Discussion #2: What is the problem with idols? What are some modern day idols that distract us?

Discussion #3: How can we be reminded to seek God and trust him in every situation? How can push out distractions and idols in our lives?

## Apply and Obey

To obey what God says, this upcoming week I will...

I will share what I learned with...

## Prayer Points

- Lord, Thank You--for being a very present help in time of trouble.
- 
- Lord, We Praise You-for dwelling in our midst and being the God of great blessing.
- 
- Lord, Help Us-to give you the glory in all things and to flee from idolatry.

In fact, prayer in some ways appears antithetical to great achievement. In our modern mindset that exalts productivity, prayer seems unproductive, trivial, or a waste of time. Time spent alone, away from crowds and away from the bustling of everyday activities, doesn't seem like a recipe for long-term impact and influence.

Yet, I believe that Jesus changed the world and continues to change the world in large part because of his remarkable prayer life. Yes, Jesus performed some amazing and spectacular signs and wonders. Certainly, he taught and did things that astonished people. But behind every significant moment in his life was a foundation of prayer. When he was preparing for his public ministry, he prayed. Before choosing his apostles, he prayed. In his most difficult moments of grief and suffering, he prayed. Before many of his miracles, he prayed. In times of rejoicing, he prayed. Before he died for the sins of the world, he prayed. Jesus didn't just have a prayer life. He lived a life of prayer. Prayer was interwoven into the very fabric of his existence. It was like breathing for Jesus. In and out. Giving and receiving. Praying and working. This was rhythm and pattern of the life of Jesus.

And when his closest followers examined his life, they did not ask him for his top ten leadership strategies. They did not inquire about his tips for building wealth or starting a successful ministry. In Luke 11:1, they said, "Lord, teach us to pray." This was not just an abstract theological question. The question came after they saw Jesus praying in a certain place. Jesus never thought of prayer as a waste of time. It was not an interruption to his ministry. It was essential to his ministry. We often think that we are too busy to pray. For Jesus, he was far too busy about his Father's business to not pray. For Jesus, prayer was not antithetical to his mission or even just a part of his mission. It was the lifeblood of his kingdom mission. Consider what he says in response to the disciples asking him to teach them how to pray:

**"And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation." And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.**

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates." --Deuteronomy 6:4-9

**What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"**  
(Luke 11:2-13)

For Jesus, prayer is not just a ritual practice. It is our way of deeply connecting to our Father in heaven, a Father who loves his own glory and name, who has a mission and a will for the world, and who loves us deeply as his children. Prayer demonstrates and submits us to dependence on God for every good gift and it aligns us to the very heart and mission of God. Prayer reminds us of our constant need for God and his Holy Spirit. Even Jesus, the Son of God, showed submission and dependence to his Father in his life of prayer. When he was in the Garden of Gethsemane, he prayed, "Not my will, but yours be done." And even on the cross, his mind and heart turned to praying to the Father. He shows us in his prayer life that our lives are designed to be lived in continual relationship and dependence on God as his beloved child. In every moment, in every joy and in every difficulty, God wants us to be near to him in prayer. Jesus lived that so fully and so beautifully.

But the amazing thing is, the prayer life of Jesus is not something that was confined to his earthly life and ministry. Jesus has a robust and vibrant prayer life even now. Hebrews 7:25-26 says this:

**"Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens."**

He lives to intercede for his people. He is interceding for us now and praying about us now. He is bringing our lives and hearts and concerns and struggles before the Father as our great High Priest. He continues in unceasing ministry for his people as he brings us near to the throne and heart of the living God. He loves to intercede on our behalf. He died to be our holy and perfect High Priest who prays for us. His prayer life sustained and fueled his perfect ministry and example. His prayer life led him to the cross in faithful obedience on our behalf. And his prayer life secures our confidence before God even now as he advocates for us as redeemed sinners. Let us learn to pray like Jesus our Master and let us praise God for the marvelous prayer life of Jesus that is so connected to our deep and sure hope in him as our Savior.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates." --Deuteronomy 6:4-9