

PRAYER: *Strengthening Your Relational Connection with Jesus, the Vine*

The Need

- “Not Good if Detached”
- Knowing the God who is the truth so we can connect with the truth.
 - Steve Goss quote
- Our attachments drive our choices.
 - And wouldn't it make sense that a God like this who created our brains in this way would say to us the first and greatest commandment is to “Love the Lord our God.”
 - Or Jesus giving the illustration that He is the vine and we are the branches and we draw our life from that attachment.
 - The beloved apostle John telling us, “We love, because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).
 - The apostle Paul said that the love of Christ constrained him .
 - 12 Times in Deuteronomy God's people are commanded to love God!
 - Psalm 27:4 David said, “One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek. That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the (beauty) delightfulness of the Lord.”
- “You pursue what you love and what you love you worship and what you worship you become.”

The Dilemma

- Living in the overwhelm of the six big emotions.
- What does it look like when relational circuits in our brain are shut down? What does it look like if we are detached? Brain scientists have found these traits.
 - I want to make a problem, person, or feeling go away.
 - I don't want to listen to what others feel or say.
 - My mind is “locked onto” something upsetting.
 - I just want to get away (flight), fight, or freeze- Elijah running from Jezebel, Moses killing the Egyptian, the majority report of the 10 spies who saw themselves as grasshoppers and refused to enter the promised land.
 - I want to aggressively interrogate, judge and fix others.
- How it impacts the inquirer.

Strengthening Our Relational Connection with Jesus

- Draw near through thanksgiving. (Psalm 100:4)
 - Neil Anderson “As a seminary student, I had already observed that being filled with the Spirit and letting the word of Christ dwell richly had the same result.

The result was teaching with wisdom and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. But what I hadn't observed before that both were rooted in an attitude of gratitude."

- Prayer and thanksgiving or appreciation are inseparable. Philippians 4:6-9. Practice these things.
- Neil writes about Psalm 95:7—"Today if you would hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." Today if you would hear his voice. I remember thinking I would love to hear your voice. Maybe I wasn't hearing his voice because I wasn't coming before His presence with thanksgiving.

Appreciation Exercise

- Building an Appreciation File
 - "If God is for you, who can be against you?"
 - The connection between body and spirit highlighted in the FICM course "Keys to Health, Wholeness, and Fruitfulness."
 - Begin the exercise with quieting. "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10
 - Write about a time you knew God was for you.

JOYFUL JOURNEY

LISTENING TO IMMANUEL

The following simple steps for seeing our lives the way God does are from Joyful Journey by Wilder, Kang, Loppnow and Loppnow ©2015 and used by permission. Permission granted to duplicate for personal or group use.

STEP ONE: GRATITUDE.

Write anything you appreciate and then write God's response to your gratitude.

Dear God, I'm thankful for...

Dear child of mine...

STEP TWO: I CAN SEE YOU.

Write from God's perspective what he observes in you right now, including your physical sensations.

I can see you at your desk. Your breathing is shallow and your shoulders are tight...

STEP THREE: I CAN HEAR YOU.

Write from God's perspective what he hears you saying to yourself.

You are wondering if I will speak to you and how you would ever know. You are discouraged and tired...

OR: You woke up full of energy this morning. You are ready to take on the world. Your mind is buzzing...

JOYFUL JOURNEY

LISTENING TO IMMANUEL (CONTINUED)

STEP FOUR: I KNOW HOW BIG THIS IS FOR YOU.

How does God see your dreams, blessings or upsets and troubles?

I want you to know that I care about what matters to you. Your desire to honor me brings me great pleasure...

OR: I understand how intimidated you feel. This situation feels all-consuming to you as if you are about to sink...

STEP FIVE: I AM GLAD TO BE WITH YOU AND TREAT YOUR WEAKNESS TENDERLY.

How does God express his desire to participate with your life?

Your dreams are precious to me. I fill you with life each day and really enjoy your desire to...

OR: I see your discouragement after yelling again. Times when you are frustrated and tired are when I want to be closer to you...

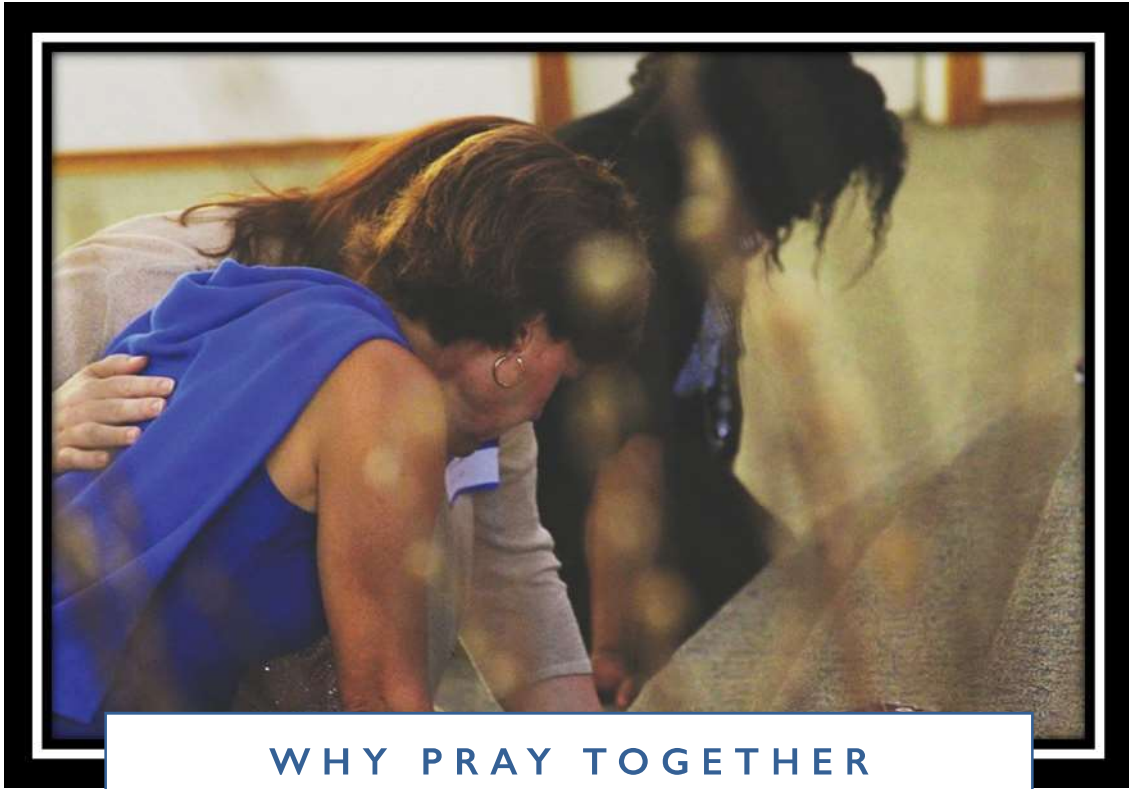
STEP SIX: I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH.

What does God give you for this time?

Come away with me. I offer you times of refreshing, new energy and vision...

OR: I will strengthen you. Remember how your friend encouraged you last week? With me you are not alone...

STEP SEVEN: Read what you have written aloud (preferably to someone).



WHY PRAY TOGETHER

UNITY IS POWERFUL. Remember the ancient Biblical story of the Tower of Babel where men sought to come together to thwart God and his purposes? They were building something, and they had a common mission, vision and a common language. “Come let us build for ourselves a city and a tower whose top will reach into heaven and let us make for ourselves a name.” Unity is powerful. We have a common mission and vision: To see God’s kingdom come to this earth in the lives of individuals, couples, and families and schools in our communities. And when we use the common language of the Bible in praise, in thanksgiving, confession, and intercession powerful things happen.

CORPORATE PRAYER OFFSETS CORPORATE OPPOSITION. Ephesians 6 tells us that the enemy is organized. He has principalities, rules, and authorities. We are told that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world force of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. And we need to organize a prayer army to stand in God’s victory over this spiritual army of darkness.

CORPORATE PRAYER ENSURES COMPREHENSIVE PRAYER. A Type A personality is going to pray differently than a “golden retriever” personality. A person with the spiritual gift of administration prays differently over the same request as a believer with the gift of giving. It’s like seeing God through different lenses just as we do in the 4 Gospels written by 4 individuals. God gets greatest glory when diverse things are brought together!

CORPORATE PRAYER EMPOWERS THE PERSON PRAYING FOR AND THE ONE WITH THE REQUEST. One of the best illustrations in Scripture is the 4 men who brought the paralytic together to Jesus in Mark 2. It was a burden too heavy for one person, but one that 4 people together could share. Our burdens grow lighter as we pray together.

A BELIEVER'S MOST POWERFUL WEAPON AND HOW TO USE IT

7 S's of Conversational Prayer – Praying in One Accord

“WITH ONE MIND, WITH ONE ACCORD, WITH ONE PASSION”

ACTS 1:14, 2:1, 2:46, 4:24, 5:12

ONE ACCORD—A unique Greek word, used 10 of its 12 New Testament occurrences in the Book of Acts, helps us understand the uniqueness of the Christian community. Homothumadon is a compound of two words meaning to “rush along” and “in unison.” The image is almost musical; a number of notes are sounded which, while different, harmonize in pitch and tone. As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concert master, so the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ's church (from the Blue Letter Bible).

- **Keep it short** so all voices can be heard! Example- Praying for a newly enrolled student for the CFMU - Prayer 1-help him not to fear the size of the task but keep their eyes fixed on Jesus, Prayer 2-pray for his /her pastor to be supportive, Prayer 3-equip him/ her with everything good for doing Your will.
- **Keep it simple.**
- **It's ok to stumble when we pray.**
- **Silence**—sometimes there is a deep need and we need to be silent and listen to the Lord so we know how to respond. The insights that come out of another's prayers can be stunning.
- **Scripture**—we use Scripture because God always know what is best and His word will never return void, but will accomplish the purpose for which it is sent.
- **Subject by subject**—like in a good conversation. Stick with one subject with several praying into it until there is a release from the Holy Spirit to move on.
- **Surrendered vessel to the Holy Spirit**—one accord prayer is Spirit led prayer.

PRAYER SHEET FICM

Praise—Praising God for **who He is**, His attributes, His name or His character.

Please no answers to prayer or prayer requests during this time.

ATTRIBUTE: El Roi

DEFINITION: God Who Sees

SCRIPTURE(S): Psalm 32:7-8, Psalm 33:13, Genesis 16:13, Psalm 139:15-16

THOUGHTS: God saw a young slave woman and met her in a desert place. He sees me where I am.

Confession—Silently confessing your sins to the God who forgives.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NASB)

Thanksgiving—Thanking God for **what He has done**. *Please no prayer requests during this time.*

In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NASB)

Intercession—Coming to God in prayer on behalf of CFMA's, staff and seekers of freedom in Christ.

SCRIPTURE: _____ will rejoice and be glad in Your lovingkindness, because you have seen _____'s affliction. You have known the troubles of their soul. You have not given _____ over into the hands of the enemy; you have set _____ feet in a large place. From Psalm 31:7-8

SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS:

- That as each participant and volunteer returns home, You would set their feet in a large place.
- For God to surround us with favor as with a shield within our churches and other ministry spheres of influence.
- For each of us to take time each day to listen and hear God's still small voice, "This is the path, walk in it."
- For us to remember daily and affirm that God hasn't given us into the hands of the enemy. But we are in the hands of a loving Father.
- That we will take time each day to remember and be glad in His lovingkindness.
- That we will cast our cares each day upon God because He has seen our affliction, and He knows the troubles of our soul.
- That we would abide in the vine and bear much fruit, seeing lives transformed.
- That God would go ahead of us and prepare the hearts of men and women to receive the message of Freedom in Christ.
- That those who receive the message of FICM would turn around and share the message that it may be multiplied.