



PROTOTYPE

Part 4: "Big, Bold prayers"
Sermon Small Group Notes
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 1. one section of questions
 2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

INTRODUCTION

Our prayers almost always focus on what we need or on the pressing needs of those we really love. Our prayers almost always focus on our welfare, healing, safety, prosperity and an overall better version of life for us. Not that God is opposed to blessing us or being concerned with the details of our lives. He is fully aware and concerned about the details of our lives. The point being, the prayers of the average American believer, when compared to the PROTOTYPE prayers of the first century church, are in need of help!

John Piper

"The typical American Christian prayer can be pictured as a guy lounging on the sofa in his living room and calling on the intercom to someone upstairs to bring him another pillow while he watches television. That is a far-cry from the Biblical scenes of warfare as the believers move from one fox-hole to another, advancing on enemy lines in the labors of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ."

MESSAGE

Throughout the book of the New Testament we see that through prayer many miracles were done.

"The miracles in the New Testament are not an end in themselves but a platform for the Preaching of the Gospel" (telling people who Jesus is and what he's done)

[ACTS 3:12-15]

¹² Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? ¹³ For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release him. ¹⁴ You rejected this holy, righteous one and instead demanded the release of a murderer. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact! Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed!

Peter continues to preach the gospel to them. The crowd is split, some are amazed at the work of Christ but some were wanting to arrest them...

[Acts 4:2-4]

² These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. ³ They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. ⁴ But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of believers now totaled about 5,000 men, not counting women and children.

The next day they bring them before the religious leaders to try and stop them from using and proclaiming the name of Jesus.

Peter starts in again...

[Acts 4:10-12]

“Let me clearly state to you and all the people of Jerusalem that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but God raised from the dead”

¹¹ For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says,

*‘The stone that you builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.’*

¹² There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

The name of Jesus is very intimidating. It has power and authority it is the only name by which man can be saved.

The name of Jesus has the power to change atmospheres. When you proclaim the name of Jesus you

After being flogged they release Peter and John and they go back to the followers of Christ...

[Acts 4:23]

²³ As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. ²⁴ When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God:

“O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them

Stop!

*??? if you couldn't read ahead or if you didn't know the following verses, **how do you think they would have prayed?***

The assumption is they would have prayed protective prayers over their leaders. But...

[Acts 4:29-31]

²⁹ And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

³¹ After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

[Acts 5:27-31&33]

²⁷ Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. ²⁸ “Didn't we tell you never again to teach in this man's name?”

he demanded. *"Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!"*

²⁹ But Peter and the apostles replied, *"We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as Prince and Savior....*

³³ When they (the religious & Government leaders)heard this, the high council was furious and decided to kill them.

"Are we praying for the path of least resistance or the path of God's greatest Glory"

[Acts 5:41-42]

The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. ⁴² **And every day**, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."

1. BIG, BOLD PRAYERS Come from spending time with JESUS!

[Acts 4:13]

"Now when they (Sanhedrin- government leaders) saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus."

"When we spend time with Jesus we pray prayers that are Powered by the spirit!

[Acts 4:31]

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God Boldly

2. BIG, BOLD PRAYERS are the result of staying focused on our mission!

Jesus said.

- **Wait**
- **Go**
- **Do the stuff - Heal, preach, give, feed, ...**
- **I will be with you & never forsake you**
- **I'll be back to check on you and see how you did**

Homework:

Clarify our goals in order to focus our prayers, energy and resources!

Prayer for boldness

"Enable me to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Jesus!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What are some reasons we DON'T pray Big Bold Prayers?**
2. **Why is it a good idea to pray Specific prayers?**
3. **Have you ever been in a situation where The name of Jesus was mentioned and it produced tension? Have you ever been in a situation where The name of Jesus was mentioned and it produced Freedom?**
4. **What needs to happen before we become a people who consistently pray bold prayers and not just protective, selfish, "I need" prayers?**
5. **Would your faith stand up to a flogging?**
6. **When it comes to spending time with Jesus in prayer... How are you doing?**
7. **What is your mission in life?**
8. **Close the meeting with this prayer, *"Enable me to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Jesus!" Amen.***