

START

Take a moment, go around the circle and introduce yourself. Each person needs to answer this question:

If you were stranded on a desert island and could listen to only one band, what band would that be and why?

SHARE

As a recap of last week, let's read the foundational text of the current series in 2 Chronicles.

The Lord Appears to Solomon // 2 Chronicles 7:11-16

When Solomon had finished the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the Lord and in his own palace, the Lord appeared to him at night and said:

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there."

Last week we were challenged to make space to allow God to speak to us in prayer. Many of us took the "SEVEN14 Challenge" and began to pray twice a day. Share a highlight from your experience?

When you spend time praying, what have you learned about yourself?

Pray Continually // 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

The church of Thessalonica was a young church, probably about three years old. Paul's letter to the church at Thessalonica was needed to help these young believers grow up in their faith and assure them that Jesus Christ will return as he proclaimed. Paul planted Thessalonica during his second missionary journey around A.D. 51. Although Thessalonica was a young church and needed encouragement, they were a model of authenticity and devotion to other churches. This young group of believers needed to grow up in their faith. Thessalonians is full of practical reminders of how we should live our lives as we follow Jesus.

Praying continually involves inviting God into every moment of your life. Consider the list below and pick one that you most need God's presence in and during. How can you invite God into that part of your day?

- ***Morning***
- ***Drive Time***
- ***At Work***
- ***At Home***
- ***Bed Time***

GROW

Throughout the message, we learned that all of us can experience God throughout the day, that He desires to be with us and to lead us. **Read John 14:15-27** together, then we will camp on the key verse below:

Dwelling Place // John 14:23

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

According to the New American Commentary, "Because of the intimate interrelationship of the Son and the Father, an obedient, loving commitment to Jesus by the disciple is recognized by the Father loving the disciple (cf. 14:21). As a result, the promise is that the Godhead would come and make their home (*monan*) with the disciple. The theological implications of this statement are extremely profound." The word "home" or "abode" literally means "dwelling place." God is telling us he is not going to abandon us as his disciples. This is a game-changer for our lives to know that there is a relationship that will never abandon us.

Have any of you felt abandoned relationally before? If you are willing to share, how has that affected your relationship with God? Has it strengthened it or made it more difficult to trust?

Are there a few people in the group willing to share an experience that has helped you trust God Will more with your life?

John Ortberg writes:

In fact the central promise of the bible is not "I will forgive you" although of course that promise is there. It is not the promise of life after death, although we are offered that as well. The most frequent promise of the Bible is "I will be with you." And yet for many of us, being with God regularly is difficult.

What is the biggest challenge for you to regularly "be with God"?

MOVE

Now that we have taken some time to reflect on how God wants to be involved in our lives, we need to humble ourselves, pray, seek his face and turn from our wicked ways. As we pray, we do this continually in every moment of our life. Each person in the group, pick a question to answer for this week:

What practical idea are you going to try this week to invite God into your daily routine?

How could you encourage someone else in their faith this week to pray?

**As a suggestion, instead of listening to music in the car, change it up and make that twenty-minute drive a time to pray. As difficult as it might be, stay in the right lane and ask God to communicate with you about your life.*

PRAY

The greatest tragedy in life are the prayers that go unanswered simply because they go unasked.

-Mark Batterson

Let's put into practice what we have been learning by praying for each other.

What is one thing you need His presence in your life to overcome or deal with? Share with the group and ask the group to pray together for each of these requests.