**Week One**

**Does it pay to pray?**

Does it pay to pray?  Do you tend to look at prayer in terms of answers rather than as an ongoing relationship with your closest friend?

What situations have you seen that are beyond your ability to solve?  How can God work through your prayers to link those needs to God?

Share situations in your family, workplace, and community that need the spotlight of God’s hope and grace.  How can you and your family pray for these things?  What step could you take to help those situations?

Compare John 15:1-11, Matthew 5:1-13, and Revelation 3:15-22.  What does each passage say we need?  How is this a key to prayer?

Please choose a few people and a few situations in our community for which you can begin praying.  Write down your prayers and continue to return to them (and keep praying).  After you have finished the devotion, consider what has happened through your prayers.

**Week Two**

**Why Pray First?**

Which has been your pattern of action in life: Praying first and then moving in the direction God leads or jumping to the work at hand and asking God to bless what you are doing?  Which would you like it to be as you move forward in the future?

Consider John Devries quote on page 61, “being close to God (i.e. in prayer) always results in our receiving work to do.”  When has that been true in your life?  Share the story.  What have you avoided praying about for fear God would call you to that work?

Have you ever felt like the child trying to get a kite to fly without wind?  When Jesus calls us to yoke ourselves to Himself, and let Him work alongside us, what power do you believe He will provide in that work?

Read Revelation 4:8-11 and 5:9-14.  How can these words be a source of strength and motivation in prayer and mission?

Consider Matt 4:1-3(4-11), Luke 6:12-13, and Luke 22:39-46.  Was it Jesus’ pattern to pray before He worked?  Why do you think this is so?  If Jesus considered it necessary, how important is it for you?

**Week Three**

**Why Pray for Neighbors?**

Read John 13:34-35.  How will people know we are disciples/followers of Jesus?  What are ways to demonstrate this to our neighbors?

Does your family/home regularly pray for your neighbors (as in at least a few times a week)?  If not, who will you begin praying for?  How can you find out if your neighbors have any prayer requests?

Read 1 Peter 1:4-5.  Into what is God building us?  What does it mean to be a priesthood?  What do priests do for people?  How are you helping people in your life connect to God?

In becoming a Home of Prayer Everyday (HOPE), consider how you and your family/friends can shine the spotlight of God's grace on your neighborhood, schools and workplaces, and places you regularly spend time.  What would you like to see God do?  Pray He would do even more than you ask or imagine.

**Week Four**

**How Should We Pray?**

-What is your favorite name for God?  How has He revealed Himself to you through this name?

-Where and with whom do you desire to see God’s kingdom come the most?  What will you be praying for in this regard?

-Is your home “one-willed” like God’s kingdom?  What needs transforming in order to experience this kind of unity?

-How has God surprised you with His provision over the years?

-What relationship or situation in your life most needs reconciliation?  How will you be praying for this?

-How does God “speak to you” or lead you?  Are you ignoring His leading?  How can you improve on your response to the Spirit’s guidance in your life?

-Where do you see the dark presence of evil in our community?  How will you pray to see that person/place delivered from this evil?

**Week Five**

**Foundations for Prayer**

Why don’t Christians in the West recognize the power God gives them in prayer to overcome the evil that is around them (cf. Ephesians 6:10-20)?  How directly related do you think this is to the decline of Christianity in the West?

How does learning who you are in Christ (His likeness, next of kin, brother/sister, fellow ruler) increase your motivation to pray for His name to be made holy, His kingdom to come, His will to be done?

Discuss who God made you to be, what He redeemed you to be, and what you will be in the next life?  How are you striving to become what you will be (cf. Galatians 2:16-21)?

How have you seen God provide miraculous resources through prayer and faith in your life or in the life of others?  Do you believe God wants to keep doing that around you?

How has God’s presence helped you in the past?  Share situations where you had the opportunity to bring the presence of God (cf. 1 Peter 3:15).  What happened?  How did you thank God?