

Call to Prayer

Small-Group Materials
Week of April 8th, 2007

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

Resurrection changes everything. What seemed hopeless after Christ died, was given new hope upon his rising. What seemed to be a bad nightmare suddenly turned into a dream beyond their imagining. Where there was no church before, quite by surprise, a fledgling church was born. And the effects of resurrection go on and on and on. We gather every Sunday because of this resurrection. We can awake each new day with anticipation because of resurrection. And the Kingdom is advancing because of resurrection. One thing that was central to the life of the Resurrection Community (which we now call the early church) was the place of prayer. You will discover this week what a central role it played. May the Lord have mercy upon us and pull us to pray.

Praying with you,

Scott

These small group-materials will be available at www.fbcdavis.org throughout the *Call to Prayer*.

Getting Started (to get group discussion going):

- **Lessons Learned** – Have you learned or been convicted of anything during our *Call to Prayer*? If you are willing, please share it with us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Please read Acts 6:1-4 together.
2. As the early church community continued to grow, what kind of growing pains did they experience?
3. What kind of value did the apostles place upon the ministry to widows?
4. What kind of value did they place upon prayer and the ministry of God's Word?
5. Notice that both the ministry to the widows and the ministry of prayer were considered essential. They both had to be done. The early church had a reputation with outsiders of caring for the poor. Their reputation for valuing prayer was probably known mostly by those who were insiders. What else do we know about the reputation of the early church?
6. Very often, we distinguish life's priorities by separating the "good" from the "best." Caring for people in need is a very good thing. Why did the apostles consider the ministry of prayer to be of greater importance?
7. Read Acts 2:42-47. What does this passage say about the place of prayer in the early church?

Leaders Note: For some additional Bible passages that show the early church's conviction about prayer, see the passages in this week's Scrolls. If your group has time, you might want to read through one or two of them before going on to question #7.

8. Why do you suppose that prayer was given such a central place in the life of the early church?
9. Do we in the contemporary church value prayer the way the early church did? Why or why not?

Making it Personal:

1. What did the early church know about prayer that we don't yet fully understand? In other words, what convictions did they have about prayer that we lack?
2. As a church we are coming to the conclusion of our prayer focus, *Called to Prayer*. Is there anything you would personally like to change in order to give prayer a more substantial place in your life?
3. Is there anything we should change about our home group and our prayer habits together?

Pray Together

Recommendation:

To continue learning about prayer, Phillip Yancey's book comes highly recommended by several within our FBC congregation. The title of the book is, *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?*