

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

## Moving the Needle - Week of January 21

### Introduction

Have you ever been in the midst of praying and suddenly wondered, "is anyone really listening?" Thoughts may run through our mind, "I know God cares, however I also know how busy God is and wonder if I'm really all that important to God?" Or, maybe we wonder if we have a good connection. Is anything holding our prayers back from God hearing them? Perhaps I could be more active in church, maybe I could cuss less and be nice to people and then my prayers may get above the ceiling. To be sure, God delights in having "holy conversations" with us. However, we can also have interruptions to our holy conversations.

Our scripture reading from the One Year Bible Reading tells us how the "unbelief" of the people was fueled by their offense at Jesus teaching with authority.

Prepare your hearts to hear the passage by asking these three questions: a) What is the Holy Spirit saying to you as you hear the scripture read? B) What are you going to do about it? c) How can we help you?

Read Matthew 13: 53-58

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
  - a. Do you see a parallel in Matthew 13 to 2 Chronicles 7: 14? Read 2 Chronicles 7:14 "Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land." How does pride become "an interruption to Holy Conversation?"

2. What are you going to do about it? How can we pray through 2 Chronicles 7:14?
  - a. "my people" becomes "me".
  - b. Humility—no longer hiding from God.
  - c. Pray to God and for others,
  - d. Repentance
  - e. Receive forgiveness
  - f. Participate in the healing process. Which of these is the most difficult for you? Which is the easiest or one you gravitate towards?
3. How can we help you? Which of these previous six responses mentioned earlier are you going to work on this coming week? How can we pray for you?

Read the following passages on Humility:

- 1 Samuel 25:23-35. How did Abigail kneeling impact King David?
- 2 Kings 5: 10-17 Naaman refused at first to bath in the Jordan River. How could his pride have impacted himself and his fellow officers?
- Jonah 3: 6-9. What impact can a leader have upon those she or he influences when the leader embraces humility?

Closing:

Gather as a group and begin praying from the 21 Days of Fasting and Prayer for the campus pastors, campuses, leaders and staff of Christ Church. Mention the needs of each other and those you know and bring them before God.

21 Days of Fasting and Prayer can be found at the following link: <https://christnc.com/blog/category/21-days-of-fasting-prayer>



**Text:** Matthew 13:53-58, II Chronicles 7:14, Rev. 22:12-21

## **PLAIN TRUTH**

\_\_\_\_\_ is essential for Holy  
\_\_\_\_\_ and Holy \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Holy Conversations without interruption:**

1. **My People:** Why \_\_\_\_\_ includes \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Humble:** Coming \_\_\_\_\_ and stop the \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Pray:** Speaking petitions & intercession immersed with a \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Repent:** \_\_\_\_\_ from any \_\_\_\_\_ from God
5. \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness
6. **Participate in the \_\_\_\_\_ process**

### **One Year Bible Reading For This Week:**

January 21: Genesis 42:18-43:34, Matthew 13:47-14:12, Psalm 18:16-36, Prov. 4:7-10  
January 22: Genesis 44:1-45:28, Matthew 14:13-36, Psalm 18:37-50, Prov. 4:11-13  
January 23: Genesis 46:1-47:31, Matthew 15:1-28, Psalm 19:1-14, Proverbs 4:14-19  
January 24: Genesis 48:1-49:33, Matthew 15:29-16:12, Psalm 20:1-9, Prov. 4:20-27  
January 25: Genesis 50:1 - Exodus 2:10, Matthew 16:13-17:9, Ps. 21:1-13, Prov. 5:1-6  
January 26: Exodus 2:11-3:22, Matthew 17:10-27, Psalm 22:1-18, Proverbs 5:7-14  
January 27: Exodus 4:1-5:21, Matthew 18:1-20, Psalm 22:19-31, Proverbs 5:15-21

**January 21, 2024**