**July 20 Sermon - Pastor Keith Moore
Following Jesus – Remember the Power of Prayer
Focus Passages: John 14:12-14**

### **Icebreaker Question:** If you could ask God for anything and get it (like a vending machine), what would it be?

### Transition Statement:In this week's message, Pastor Keith reminded us that when our hearts are troubled, one of the most powerful responses we can make is to pray, not just casually, but prayerfully, trusting in Jesus' promises. Jesus says that if we believe in Him, not only can we talk to God boldly, but we can participate in His mission by doing the “greater works” He promised through faith and prayer. Let’s dig deeper into what that means for us today.

## **Discussion Questions**

### **1. What does it mean to “believe in Jesus” according to John 14:12?**

*Leader Note: Encourage group members to discuss faith not just as belief in facts, but as trust, dependence, and commitment to Jesus. Reference Matthew 17:20 and Luke 17:6—faith doesn’t have to be huge, just real and active. Ask: What kind of “small faith” prayers have you dared to pray?*

### **2. Jesus says believers will do “greater works” than He did (John 14:12). How is that even possible?**

*Leader Note: Help the group understand that this isn’t just about miracles—it’s about impact. Jesus’ earthly ministry was geographically limited, but His followers, filled with the Spirit, have a global reach. Cross-reference Acts 1:8. Talk about how ordinary people (like the group) are part of God's extraordinary work.*

### **3. How does remembering the power of prayer help calm a troubled heart?**

*Leader Note: Bring attention to the big idea that prayer is not the last resort but our most powerful starting point. Look again at John 14:13–14. Prayer connects us to the presence, power, and promises of God. Reflect on Philippians 4:6–7 as a peace through prayer passage.*

### **4. Why does Jesus say we must pray "in His name"? What does that actually mean?**

*Leader Note: This isn’t about a magic phrase. It’s about aligning with Jesus' mission and character. Discuss how praying in Jesus’ name means praying according to His heart and will (see 1 John 5:14–15). Invite group members to share how that changes their prayer life.*

### **5. Based on John 15:7, what are some prayers that God will always say “yes” to?**

*Leader Note: Use this as a hopeful pivot. God always honors prayers that align with His will: salvation, forgiveness, strength for obedience, fruitfulness in ministry (John 15:16b). Invite people to reflect on prayers they may need to revisit with this in mind.*

### **6. Pastor Keith said, “There’s nothing more effective, important, or powerful we can do UNTIL we’ve prayed.” Do you agree? Why or why not?**

*Leader Note: Use this to challenge the group’s mindset about prayer. Too often, we act first and pray last. Encourage honest sharing about what holds us back from praying first. Use James 5:16b (“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power...”).*

### **7. What’s one way you want to pray “better” this week?**

*Leader Note: Turn this into personal action. Encourage each group member to choose one practical step like, setting a daily prayer reminder, starting a prayer journal, praying aloud with a spouse, or committing to intercede for someone in need.*