

For the week of February 18- 24, 2018

Based on Pastor Tucker's message from February 17-18

God's Work is Your Work

Best Way to Prepare for Your Group? Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

[Format for the Evening]

WELCOME:

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

KEY PASSAGE: *"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God."*—Romans 10:3

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: We Can't Work for Our Own Salvation

Jesus accomplished the work of salvation on your behalf. His finished work must be something that reaches the depths of who you are. It is not enough to intellectually consider the facts of the case. It must be something you truly believe in your heart. That's why it's so common for people who were once committed to Christianity to go astray. It doesn't matter how serious and you committed you are to religious works. Unless our passion and commitment is completely given to following Jesus we will eventually be led astray. Religion and zeal will not save you.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. What are some examples of things in your life that you do because you should, not as a way to live out your love for God?
2. How can you change your motivation and perspective to make those acts a pleasing offering to God?

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: What We Can Work For

The good work God has for you is not to do the work of salvation, but the work of intercession. We must give our lives as a tool to save others. Whether we know it or not, each of our salvation is a result of intercessory prayer. Someone prayed that you and I would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. So let's talk about how we can be effective in this sacred act God has entrusted to us.

The two most important aspects of intercession are to pray and then to be willing to act. Action is only as good as the power of God working in your weakness and limitation. Of course we must act, but we must never act without praying. This leads us to the proper outflow of prayer. Prayer is the foundation of intercession, but we must let actions be built upon it.

In Romans 10:1, Paul says he desires and prays that Israel would be saved. And we know from biblical accounts of Paul's life that he followed up those prayers with reaching out, preaching, doing what God gifted him to do to reach these people he loved. Can you relate to Paul's desire to see His loved ones saved? Have you ever been burdened by the lost status of someone close to you? Don't neglect the opportunity you have to take action. To share God's love through action and word as the opportunity presents itself. But don't think that preaching, words of wisdom, and kind deeds in the name of Jesus is all you can do. Your action will only work by the grace of God. Prayer is the key that opens the door of faith. Take action in prayer before you take action in deed.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. Discuss examples in your life where you have seen God's hand at work as a result of someone interceding on your behalf.
2. Are there areas in your life where you need to commit to interceding more? Make a list to keep in your Bible to remind you to pray daily for those people and situations.

PRAY TOGETHER: Please pray that God would show believers how to develop stronger prayer lives, so that every day becomes a series of choices to seek Jesus' will and follow it. Pray that we will be able to overcome our culture's tendency to demand instant gratification. Ask that God will make us a patient people who are willing to devote time to the slow process of spiritual growth.

TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests, and enjoy each other's company. That's what family does.

Note: Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at tucker@calvaryboise.com with your insight.

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." –Malachi 3:6

I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me. –C.S. Lewis

Our Core Group:

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Our International Missions – Sierra Leone

- Pray for Jason Zweigle who coordinates our work in Sierra Leone.
- Pray for plans to build a well in the bush village of Maken. Pray for a pastor to come forth to minister in Maken.
- Pray for Pastor Bambay's new church. They just had their first service. Many were saved & baptized.
- Please continue to pray that God would raise up a mature team of laborers to go to Sierra Leone in 2019.
- Pray for a Pastor to be raised up from the village of Maken.

Our Local Ministry: Hospitality

- Pray that we will continue to have friendly greeters, traffic directors and ushers who show God's love to people.
- Pray that we will have great wisdom in knowing how to serve newcomers and do an effective job of getting them plugged into the church family.
- Pray that the prayer team will be effective, and for God's will in all we do.