

Praying Confidently and Pastoral Conclusions

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1 John 5:13-21

Introduction (v. 13)

I. Petitioning the Father (vv. 14-15)

II. Praying for the family (vv. 16-17)

III. Protecting the forgiven (vv. 18-19)

IV. Pleading the facts (vv. 20-21)

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

Ice breaker: With the holiday season upon us, share with each other some of your holiday plans and what you're most looking forward to about this time of year.

1. As a way to refresh your memory about the sermon, try to recall together some of the main themes of the letter of 1 John that were talked about in the introduction and in the last point ("Pleading the facts").
2. In 1 John 5:14-15, we saw what a great privilege it is to communicate with God through prayer. How is your prayer life? How often do you pray? If you're married do you pray regularly with your spouse? What about with your children if you have kids? Do you find it a struggle to pray, either because you seem to not be able to find time, or because you just don't know what to say? Did the words of John encourage you in this regard or in some other way? If so, please share about it. Discuss with the group something you've prayed for in the past and how God has answered, or something you've been petitioning God for that you have yet to know how or if He has answered?
3. In point 3 ("Protecting the forgiven"), we talked about how John is presenting Jesus as the "Good Shepherd" who keeps any true harm from coming to His sheep (those whom God has chosen to save by grace). We also talked about how God has allowed the "evil one" to have some control over the world in this era of time. In your day-to-day life, are you more prone to see the ultimate control Jesus has over the world, and over you specifically as a believer, or are you more likely to dwell on the limited control the evil one has over this world? Do you live as if you truly believe what John said in 1 John 4:4 that "greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world?" On the flip side, in what ways don't you live in light of this and how is God stretching you lately to grow in this area of life, discipleship, and worship?
4. If there are any sins you are struggling with, share them with your group and then commit to be praying for one another about these sins. (If you are uncomfortable sharing with your group, talk to someone privately or share that sin with one of our pastors.)
5. Having now finished the book of 1 John together as a church, what were some of the things God taught you through this series and things He has done to transform you through His word? Share.