

INFUSION # 15

PASSIONATE PRAYER

Outreach Influence Team

Meeting Preparation

For the best experience of learning and transformation, please take some time to do the following three things:

Read: *Organic Disciples* (Chapter 7-9)

- Chapter 7 – “Talking to the Father”
- Chapter 8 – “Does God Really Want to Hear from Me?”
- Chapter 9 – “Praying for and with the World”

Also read pages 70-71 in *Organic Outreach for Churches*, and reflect on the Mind Shift from Programs to Praying.

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a deep understanding of the heavenly power that is unleashed when the people of God come to Him in prayer. Thank Jesus for opening the way to the Father through His death and resurrection, and give Him praise that we can talk to our Maker at any time and in any place.

Action: For the next week, begin each day by lifting up this simple and powerful prayer:

Living God, work through me today. Help me see people who are wandering far from You, like sheep without a shepherd. As I notice these people, help me to love them, pray for them, and serve them in any way that would honor You and bless them. Give me power to do this, in the name of Jesus, Amen!

Infusion Focus

In each of the infusions built on the content of *Organic Disciples*, we will focus on one marker of spiritual growth. We will ask three questions: 1) How did Jesus model and teach this marker? 2) How should I follow His example in this area of my spiritual life? 3) How should this lead me on mission with Jesus in my daily life? To put it simply, we will learn from Jesus, live like Jesus, and follow Jesus. In this infusion, we will look at the prayer life of Jesus and be inspired by His example. Then we will seek to grow in prayer to be more like our Savior. Finally, we will discover how a rich life of prayer leads us outward to the people who Jesus loves and came to save.





Read: Mark 1:35-37 (2 minutes)

Pray: Pray for God to help you learn from the example of Jesus and make space for prayer, especially in the busy and complicated times of life.



The One-Degree Rule: Five Minutes to Share It (8 minutes)

If you are meeting in a One-on-One setting, have each person respond to the prompts below for 3-4 minutes. If you are in a larger group, please break into pairs and have each person share for 3 minutes.

- What is your outreach temperature over the last couple of days? (Your passion, prayer, and meaningful spiritual engagement with non-believers)
- Share how you pray for people in your life who are not yet followers of Jesus.
- How can you increase your proximity to non-Christians in the coming weeks? If you have lots of proximity, how can you increase your prayers for and with these people?

My Infusion Strategy: Follow-up (4 minutes)

If you are in a One-on-One setting, talk together about ways you are trying to help the people you influence read their Bible faithfully and connect their Bible reading to the mission and call of Jesus to reach the world with His love and truth. If you are in a larger group, have two members volunteer to talk about this same topic.



Share your responses to the prompts provided below: (8 minutes)

- Who prayed consistently for you before you placed your faith in Jesus, and how has their example inspired you to pray for others that need to meet the Savior?
 - What do you see in the prayer life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels that inspires you to pray with increased passion and frequency?
 - Jesus said, “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send workers into his harvest field” (Matthew 9:38). Why is it important for us to pray for believers to be motivated and engaged in outreach? How can we pray for this (starting by praying for ourselves)?
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Learning Theme 1: Learning from Jesus (6 minutes)

In John’s Gospel, we find the longest recorded prayer of Jesus in the Bible. Our Savior walks through three distinct movements of prayer that should inspire and instruct us as we call out to the Father in prayer. We will dig into this prayer in our learning time.

Read: John 17:1-5

Notice how Jesus prayed. Eyes wide open, turned toward heaven. Jesus prays about His mission. He asks for glory to be given to Him and His Father. He focuses on the eternal life He came to offer people in this world. It is a rich and powerful prayer!

Discuss:

- What do you learn about the heart and passion of Jesus in this part of His prayer?
- What insight do you gain into the relationship of Jesus and the Father?
- What do you learn about the Gospel and the salvation Jesus came to deliver to broken and wandering people?

Action: Follow the example of Jesus when you pray and offer glory and praise to God! .

Learning Theme 2: Praying Like Jesus (8 minutes)

Jesus now shifts His prayer to those who are following Him. Our Savior prayed for the disciples who were on mission with Him. In this part of Jesus' prayer, He asked the Father to protect them, unify them, bring joy to them, and guard them from the enemy of their souls.

Read: John 17:6-19

Our heavenly Father cares deeply about every person who places their faith in Jesus, His Son. Jesus loves His disciples. Think about how Jesus prayed for His people and remember that the Savior continues to intercede for us today (Romans 8:34).

Discuss:

- What does Jesus pray for His disciples that really jumps out at you and encourages you?
- If this portion of Jesus' prayer gives a picture of our Lord praying for His followers, what kind of things do you think Jesus is praying for you today?

Action: Use this prayer of Jesus to guide you in your intercession for other believers you care about. Pray for: confidence in their faith in Jesus, protection, unity, joy, a shield from the enemy, and sanctification in the truth.

Learning Theme 3: Passion from Jesus (6 minutes)

Jesus finishes by praying for those who are not yet following Him. He lifts up those who will one day come to faith through the ministry of His disciples. He prays for those who will one day be in heaven with Him. Our loving Savior prays that the Father's love will fill people who come to faith and that Jesus Himself will dwell in them. What a glorious prayer!

Read: John 17:20-26

Jesus began by praying about His relationship with the Father. Next, He prayed for His followers...those who already had faith in Him. Finally, Jesus the Good Shepherd prays for the wandering sheep He longs to see come home to Him.

Discuss:

- Who are lost sheep you know that Jesus longs to see come home to Him through the grace He offers?
- How can you pray for these people and shine the light of Jesus so they get a vision of God's presence, love and grace?

Action: Pray for the people you know who can come to the Father through faith in Jesus as you shine His light and share His good news. Pray that one day the love of the Father and the very presence of Jesus will fill these people through faith in the crucified and risen Jesus.

BONUS: The Mind Shift from Programs to Praying. There is nothing wrong with programs for outreach, but if we rely on programs alone, they will lack the heavenly power needed to change hearts. We must shift to prayer before, during, and after our outreach events and programs. When we make this critical adjustment, we will see God move through our outreach events. (4 minutes)

Discuss: How can you integrate prayer before, during, and after your upcoming outreach efforts?



Discussion and Collaboration (6 minutes)

Discuss: (6 minutes)

- What outreach event, ministry or strategy are you engaging in (in your area of ministry) in the next three months, and how can others (OIT members) pray and support you?
 - What is happening for outreach in the life of the whole church in the next six months, and how can the members of the OIT help this succeed? How can we pray before, during, and after these events?
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My Infusion Strategy: How will I teach people I influence (my Level 4 Ministry Leaders) about how Jesus prayed, how we can pray, and how this can lead us outward on mission with our Savior? (4 minutes)

Identify:
Person/Group/Team

Write Down:
Infusion Strategy/Action

Closing Prayer: Pray together... (4 minutes)

- Thank God for the amazing opportunity we have to draw near His throne of power and glory with confident and courageous prayer because, through Jesus' death, the curtain that separated the holiness of God from sinful humanity has been torn, and we have direct access to the throne room through prayer.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to take you to deeper and more passionate places of prayer more than you have ever gone before.
- Pray for more consistent devotion to cry out to God for those who are not yet following the Savior.



Read: Mark 1:35-37 (2 minutes)

Pray: Pray for God to help you learn from the example of Jesus and make space for prayer, especially in the busy and complicated times of life.



The One-Degree Rule: Two Minutes to Share It (5 minutes)

Break into pairs and share.

- What is your outreach temperature over the last couple of days? (Your passion, prayer, and meaningful spiritual engagement with non-believers)
 - Share how you pray for people in your life who are not yet followers of Jesus.
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Share: Have a couple of people share their responses to one of the prompts provided below. (5 minutes)

- Who prayed consistently for you before you placed your faith in Jesus, and how has their example inspired you to pray for others that need to meet the Savior?
- What do you see in the prayer life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels that inspires you to pray with increased passion and frequency?



Learning Theme 1: Praying Like Jesus (8 minutes)

In John's Gospel, we find the longest recorded prayer of Jesus in the Bible. Our Savior walks through three distinct movements of prayer that should inspire and instruct us as we call out to the Father in prayer. We will look at two parts of this prayer in our learning time.

Jesus prays for those who are following Him. Our Savior prayed for the disciples who were on mission with Him. In this part of Jesus' prayer, He asked the Father to protect them, unify them, bring joy to them, and guard them from the enemy of their souls.

Read: John 17:6-19

Our heavenly Father cares deeply about every person who places their faith in Jesus, His Son. Jesus loves His disciples. Think about how Jesus prayed for His people and remember that the Savior continues to intercede for us today (Romans 8:34).

Discuss:

- What does Jesus pray for His disciples that really jumps out at you and encourages you?
- If this portion of Jesus' prayer gives a picture of our Lord praying for His followers, what kind of things do you think Jesus is praying for you today.

Learning Theme 2: Passion From Jesus (6 minutes)

Jesus finishes by praying for those who are not yet following Him. He lifts up those who will one day come to faith through the ministry of His disciples. He prays for those who will one day be in heaven with Him. Our loving Savior prays that the Father's love will fill people who come to faith and that Jesus Himself will dwell in them. What a glorious prayer!

Read: John 17:20-26

Discuss:

- Who are lost sheep you know that Jesus longs to see come home to Him through the grace He offers?
- How can you pray for these people and shine the light of Jesus so they get a vision of God's presence, love and grace?



Discussion and Collaboration (4 minutes)

- What outreach event, ministry or strategy are you engaging in (in your area of ministry) in the next three months, and how can others (OIT members) pray and support you?
 - What is happening for outreach in the life of the whole church in the next six months, and how can the members of the OIT help this succeed? How can you all be praying for a powerful work of God through this outreach?
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Closing Prayer: Pray together... (2 minutes)

- Thank God for the amazing opportunity we have to draw near His throne of power and glory with confident and courageous prayer because Jesus has paid the way and opened the door.
- Pray for more consistent devotion to cry out to God for those who are not yet following the Savior.



Read: Mark 1:35-37 (2 minutes)

Pray: Pray for God to help you learn from the example of Jesus and make space for prayer, especially in the busy and complicated times of life.



The One-Degree Rule: (2 minutes)

Reflect on these two questions:

- What is your outreach temperature over the last couple of days? (Your passion, prayer, and meaningful spiritual engagement with non-believers)
 - How do you pray for people in your life who are not yet followers of Jesus?
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Share: Have two people share their responses to one of the prompts provided below. (5 minutes)

- Who prayed consistently for you before you placed your faith in Jesus, and how has their example inspired you to pray for others that need to meet the Savior?
- What do you see in the prayer life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels that inspires you to pray with increased passion and frequency?



Learning Theme 1: Passion From Jesus (6 minutes)

In John's Gospel, we find the longest recorded prayer of Jesus in the Bible. Our Savior walks through three distinct movements of prayer that should inspire and instruct us as we call out to the Father in prayer. We will look at the final part of this prayer in our learning time.

Jesus prayed for those who were not yet following Him. He lifts up those who will one day come to faith through the ministry of His followers. He prays for those who will one day be in heaven with Him.

Read: John 17:20-26

Discuss:

- Who are lost sheep you know that Jesus longs to see come home to Him through the grace He offers?
- How can you pray for these people and shine the light of Jesus so they get a vision of God's presence, love and grace?



Discussion and Collaboration (4 minutes)

- What outreach event, ministry, or strategy are you engaging in the next three months, and how can others pray and support you?

Closing Prayer: Pray together for... (1 minute)

- Pray for more consistent devotion to cry out to God for those who are not yet following the Savior.