

**OPEN THE CONVERSATION**

Welcome everyone to the conversation. Begin by asking group members to share, what’s the biggest favor you’ve ever had to ask somebody?

**INTRODUCTION**

**Sometimes we can feel really uncomfortable asking people for help—especially when it’s a really big favor we need. We feel like we’re being a burden, or we’ll stretch the relationship, or we’ll make them think we’re really “needy” or weak. So, a lot of us learn to not ask for big favors, or maybe even small favors.**

**The truth is, the extends even to our relationship with God. We have this sense that God wants us to handle things on our own as much as possible, so we try to go at it ourselves and see if we can manage. But that couldn’t be further from the truth. God *invites* us to come to him and ask for what we need, because he knows we can’t do it on our own. We *need* him to help. And so he asks us to be united and fervent in prayer.**

**That’s what the disciples figured out right after Jesus ascended and left them. Rather than scramble to figure out how they were going to make everything work and get the kingdom moving forward, they gathered together, they united their prayers, and the fervently continued in it. And God answered in big ways. The amazing news: He invites us to do the same thing.**

***READ Acts 1:12-14***

1. What does it tell us about the priority of prayer that it was the first step Jesus’s followers took after His ascension?
2. Why is it important that this was a united act and not just one or two people in the group on their own?
3. What would it look like for our group to be “united” in prayer?

***READ Acts 12:5-16***

1. The church immediately turned to prayer once Peter was imprisoned. How likely are we to turn to prayer as our first option in times of trouble?
2. When someone needs an ambulance, the time between the emergency call going out and the ambulance arriving is called the “response time”. It’s the time between freaking out and solutions arriving. If prayer is our solution, what do you think your “response time” is, the time between the emergency and you going to prayer?
3. In Acts, the church came together in Peter’s time of need. What would it look like for us to do the same for those in need in our church?

**WRAP UP**

**How have you seen the effectiveness of prayer, personally or in community?**

*Ask for any prayer requests, and pray for one another.*