



“The Power of Prayer in the Early Church”

Acts 1:14

May 12, 2019

(Mother’s Day)

1. The power of community in prayer.
2. The power of unity in prayer.
3. The power of continuing in prayer.

**Application:**

1. As a life group or as a family discuss how you can better pray together and for one another. Can you set up a better way of communicating prayer requests to the group during the week?
2. There are a variety of locations and settings in the early church where they prayed. Be creative and think of places to go and pray. (Hilltop areas, parks, river, city halls, neighborhoods, etc.)
3. Begin a commitment to pray for your family every day. Be specific, be persistent.



## Life Group Questions/ Discussion

**Main Thought of the Study** – The power source for the early church can be found in their devotion to prayer. If we are going to see God work in us and through us it must be based on our commitment to pray together.

**Introduction Discussion** – Rate 1-10 how you would describe your prayer life? (1 –rarely pray to 10 daily and continual intercessor) What is the most difficult thing about making prayer an integral part of who you are?

### **Reflections from the Message**

1. How does Luke describe the attitude of the early church toward prayer in Acts 1:14? Discuss the make-up of the people that are gathered. How were they similar and how were they different? How was their journey and experience with Jesus similar and different? Discuss the value of the church praying together. (All generations, backgrounds, etc.)
2. Prayer has limited power when there is disunity. (Acts 1:14) What does it mean for a church to have “unity?” (John 13:34; Acts 4:32; Romans 15:6; Acts 15:25; Philippians 2:2, 5) In your experience, how does disunity usually happen in churches? Discuss the effort that it takes to maintain unity. (Ephesians 4:3, 15, 29, 32) Why is this so difficult?
3. When they gathered in the “upper room” to pray, they did not know how long they would be there. (Acts 1:4) It was open-ended. Is this a hard thing in your prayer life? Why? Discuss what it means to “wait upon the Lord.” (Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 27:14)
4. There were five reasons that were shared why God expects “waiting” in our prayer life. Review the five reasons and share which ones have been the most meaningful in your life. Share examples when waiting brought more power or understanding in your situation.

### **Application:**

1. Allow enough time to pray together. Develop a new commitment as a group to pray. Try some new ways of praying together. (Pray by topic with sentence prayers with several praying about the same request; Pray the Lord’s Prayer where one person reads one phrase at a time and then let the group pray additional personal requests based on that phrase; Pray over each person at a time that needs prayer)
2. Be creative and go to a location in the community to pray – city hall, police station, fire station, city park, neighborhood.