**Fellowship CommUnity Group**

 **Discussion Guide for Leaders**

*Series: Lord, Teach Us to Pray*

*Sermon: “Weakness Prayer” (11-11-18)*

**Group Announcements (Leaders: Please review prior to start)**

**1)** Welcome everyone to your group.

**2) Leaders: Please note special instructions for prayer time.**

1. **Getting To Know Each Other** *Please use these questions as a time for people to informally talk and get to know each other.*

Go around the room and have everyone answer this question: **If you had the choice of going back in time or going forward into the future, which would you choose and why?**

* **Opening Prayer**. (Either leader, host home or someone who is willing to pray out loud)

*(Notes from message for reference only – use only as needed)*

**\*\***Use Sermon notes bulletin insert

> So, why does the Spirit have to help believers?

* Because of our weakness as we wait.
* > In what specific way does the Spirit help us?
* He helps us to pray as we ought to pray.
* > Why must the Spirit help us to pray?
* Because we do not know what to pray for.
* > What does the Spirit specifically do to help us to pray as we should?
* He intercedes for us.
* > How does the Spirit intercede for us?
* He does so with wordless groanings.
* **How the Spirit’s Intercession Impacts our Prayers**
* 1) The Spirit leads us to ask for things we don’t even know we should ask for.
* 2) The Spirit gives us the strength to pray in a way our weakness would never allow us to pray without him.
* 3) The Spirit leads us to ask for things that are according to the will of God.
* **Encouraging Reminders About Prayer from the Spirit of God**
* 1) You are not expected to know the will of God in every matter of prayer but…You are expected to trust the will of God in every matter of your life!
* 2) In your weakness, (sickness, loss, hardship, uncertainty, despair) remember that the Spirit of God is praying for you NOT against you.

**Into The Text** (15 Minutes) (Leaders: This time is not meant to be application yet, this is time in the Word, before we seek to apply truth, we need to understand the meaning of the text. The section after this one will focus on application.)

1. Ask someone to read the following passage Romans 8:18-25. *Ask*: *According to v20, what was creation subjected to? Who subjected it? According to v22 and v23, who is groaning? Why are they groaning? What are they waiting for? (V23)*
2. Ask someone to read Romans 8:26-27. *Ask: What is the weakness Paul refers to in v26? Why do we sometimes not know what to pray for? Do we always not know what to pray for? What does the Spirit do to help us? What does Paul mean by ‘groanings too deep for words’ in v26?*
3. *Ask: Who searches hearts and knows what is the mind of the Spirit v27? How does the Spirit intercede for the saints according to v27? Is the Spirit aware of what the will of God is?*

**Application & Discussion** (15-20 Minutes)

1. Say: Let’s move to application. *In what ways do you think creation is ‘groaning’ for the redemption of Christ?*
2. *What do you do when you don’t know how to pray about something? How does this text encourage you when you don’t know how to pray? Should we pray even when we don’t feel like or know what to say? Why?*
3. *Ask: Does God expect you to know what his will is in all matters of your life? What does he expect of you when it comes to his will?*
4. *Ask: Is the Spirit praying for you or praying against you? How should that impact your prayer life?*
5. *Ask: Is Jesus going to redeem creation and all believers? How should that hope impact the way we pray?*

**\*\*Prayer Time**: **(Leader Say:**) We will now close with a time of prayer.

As we have done before, ask someone to start and then have each person go around the room and pray a one sentence prayer out loud to the Lord, with all of your heart: This sentence can either be prayed as is or in your own words.

* Make sure everyone knows who is starting the prayer and the direction you are going.
* The sentence is…*“Lord, In my weakness, teach me to pray, thank you for the Spirit who intercedes for me”*
* *(****Leader****: Encourage those uncomfortable with praying out loud to try this, even if it is just a short sentence, they can still pass if they choose but do ask for this prayer to go around the room in a certain order so everyone knows – give room for learning to pray)*
* Once everyone has prayed this prayer in their own words, you can either open it up for prayer or just close. Lord, teach us to pray.