WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Notes

Sermon Title: Speaking Jesus Over Your Situation
Key Scripture: John 14:13 & 14 NIV
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/speaking-jesus-over-your-situation
Date + Speaker: January 14, 2024; Pastor Mark Scarr

The BIG IDEA (the suggested 'take away' for this study derived from the sermon): The ultimate presence of Jesus is experienced, here on earth, through the penultimate practise of prayer. Prayer is the process by which we align ourselves with the will of the Father and then ask and act out of the conviction, power and authority of the finished work of Jesus. In whose name we pray.

Specific notes for leaders are italicized.

Starter Question:
1. What are some names that come to mind when you hear the expression 'GOAT' or 'Greatest Of All Time'?

[Leaders can prepare some examples of GOATs in music, art, sports, politics, authors, preachers etc. There is no right or wrong answer – all contribution is personal opinion.]

Discussion Questions to Review (observation):
2. Read the 'focus' verse: John 14:13&14. Invite members to share what words or phrases stand out to them and why.

3. Read Genesis 25:26 and Genesis 35:10. Read 1 Samuel 25:25. Read John 1:42. What might a person's name tell us about them?

4. Read the following passages and have members share the names of Jesus: Matthew 1:23 (Immanuel); John 1:29 (Lamb of God); Revelation 22:13 (Alpha and Omega); Isaiah 9:6 (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace); John 6:35 (The Bread of Life); Isaiah 59:20 (The Redeemer)

Discussion Questions for Digging Deeper (interpretation and application):
5. Pastor Mark shared a story: He goes to a bank to cash a cheque for 10 million dollars signed by himself. What happens and why? The next day he returns with

one authenticated as being signed by Elon Musk. What's the difference? *[Consider reading the following passages to 'authenticate' Jesus' authority: Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 4:18; Hebrews 10:19-20 and Acts 19:13-15]*

6. What indicators are there that, when we pray, we are praying from a place of our own power or ability? *[Examples: We pray an agenda, we are discouraged and angry at God when the outcome of our prayers is different than we asked]*

7. Read Matthew 26:39&42 and 1 John 5:14-15. Why should we seek to align our wills with God's? What prevents us from growing in this practise? What are the benefits?

8. How might our [prayer] lives be different if we recognized Jesus' authority and aligned ourselves with the Heavenly Father's will? *[Allow for members responses but use their input as a segue to review Pastor Mark's concluding thoughts: We should pray more. Our prayers will be filled with more praise. We should be led back to His Word. We should find our trust growing. We should be seeking more and more His will in every area of our lives. Our prayers should be more about God's glory and less about our gratification. And it ALL should lead us back to Jesus.]*

9. Share samples of helpful resources with one another and/or pray with one another.

A example of a Prayer App:
https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365/

A example of a Bible App that has a daily devotional and guided prayer feature (this happens to be where WPC posts Sermon notes under Events).
https://www.youversion.com

Examples of a currently available books on the subject:

https://faithgateway.com/products/praying-like-monks-living-like-fools-an-invitation-to-the-wonder-and-mystery-of-prayer?variant=40201737633928

https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/how-to-pray-book/

https://www.stormieomartian.com/product-category/the-power-of-praying-series/