LOVES KC BY PRAYING

WHAT IF THE CHURCH?

May 20, 2018

SERIES BIG IDEA:

What if the Church loves the city by praying, caring, and sharing?

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

What if I made a daily habit of aligning myself with what God is doing by praying?

TEACHING SUMMARY:

What if the church asks the question of what would happen if the church did certain things together to grow God's kingdom in the Kansas City metropolitan area. This week's message specifically asks what if the church prays for the city? The foundation of understanding prayer is to understand that Jesus came to bring His Kingdom to earth by saving all who trust in Him and surrender to His authority. Prayer is therefore aligning ourselves with what God is doing to grow His kingdom. Prayer is certainly talking to God, but is also listening. In fact, Jesus spent more time listening to His Father than He did talking. Not praying can prevent God working through us. Prayer prepares us for people's problems. Prayer positions us to depend on God and be used by Him. To best implement prayer into your life, create a place, find the time, listen as much, or more, than you talk, and be sure to include scripture in your prayer time.

TALK IT OVER (DISCUSS ONE OR MORE):

What are reasons that people (perhaps you?) have for NOT praying?

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed, "Not my will, but yours be done." Discuss what implementing that prayer into our lives would actually mean? What would it look like on a daily basis?

How much time do you spend in organized prayer each day now? Are you satisfied with that? What may be your "Next Step" in going deeper in your prayer time? Do you have a place? Do you have a time?

What are different ways to organize your prayers? (i.e. ACTS-Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication; Look up the Echo App for your smart phone)

The message focused on listening to God as much or more than talking. Scripture is certainly a part of listening to God. What are other ways?

Read Acts 1:8. What is our "Jerusalem"? What is our "Judea and Samaria"? What is our "ends of the earth"? Conclude with a prayer for the Kansas City metropolitan area that people across the city who are far from God can take their Next Step in finding and following Jesus.

OTHER SCRIPTURES TO READ:

--Matthew 7:7-12
--Mark 11:12-25
--John 14:5-14
--Acts 9:3-43
--Philippians 4:4-9
--James 5:13-18