

Small Group Guide: Praying Dangerous Prayers

Key Takeaways:

1. God calls all believers to be priests and ministers, not just vocational clergy.
2. There are three common responses to God's calling: refusing to go, asking God to send someone else, or willingly saying "Here I am, send me."
3. To fully surrender to God, we need: a) A real experience with God's presence, b) A genuine awareness of our sinfulness, and c) A deep understanding of God's grace.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever felt God calling you to do something? How did you respond?
2. The pastor mentions three types of responses to God's calling (Jonah, Moses, and Isaiah). Which one do you relate to most and why?
3. What fears or hesitations do you have about praying a "dangerous prayer" like "Here I am, send me"?
4. How can we cultivate a greater awareness of God's presence in our daily lives?
5. The sermon emphasizes the importance of recognizing our own brokenness. Why do you think this is crucial for our spiritual growth?
6. How has experiencing God's grace impacted your willingness to serve Him?
7. What does it mean to "die daily" as Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 15:31? How can we practically apply this concept?
8. The pastor says, "What we feed grows and what we starve dies." How can we intentionally feed our spiritual lives and starve our fleshly desires?

Bible Study Questions:

1. Isaiah's Commitment:

- **Read Isaiah 6:8.** Isaiah responds to God's call with "Here I am, send me." What does this response reveal about Isaiah's relationship with God? How can we cultivate a similar willingness to follow God's call in our own lives?

2. Presence of God:

- **Read Isaiah 6:1-3.** Isaiah experiences the presence of God and sees His holiness. How does having a real experience with the presence of God impact our view of ourselves and our willingness to serve? Can you share a time when you felt particularly aware of God's presence in your life?

3. Awareness of Sinfulness:

- **Read Isaiah 6:5.** Isaiah acknowledges his sinfulness and that of the people around him. Why is it important to have an awareness of our own brokenness when serving God?

How does this awareness affect our interactions with others who might not share our beliefs?

4. Understanding God's Grace:

- **Read Isaiah 6:6-7.** Isaiah experiences God's grace as described in Isaiah 6:6-7. How does a deep understanding of God's grace motivate us to live out our faith? Can you think of a time when you've been profoundly aware of God's grace in your own life?

5. Daily Surrender:

- **Read Galatians 2:20.** Paul talks about being crucified with Christ and living by faith. What does daily surrender look like in practical terms for you? How can we encourage each other in our community group to make surrendering to God a regular part of our lives?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, spend time in prayer asking God to reveal any areas where He might be calling you to serve or step out in faith.
2. Practice saying "Here I am, send me" in your daily prayers, even for small prompts from God.
3. Identify one "safe" prayer in your life and challenge yourself to make it more surrendered to God's will.
4. Reflect on God's grace in your life. Write down specific ways He has shown you mercy and forgiveness.
5. Look for opportunities to serve others this week, viewing it as a response to God's grace rather than obligation.
6. Consider filling out the "Where can I serve?" card from the church if you haven't already, exploring ways to get more involved.
7. Invite a friend or family member to next week's sermon series on "Freedom From..." if you think it might benefit them.

Closing Prayer: Lord, thank you for your incredible grace in our lives. Help us to respond to your calling with willingness and trust. Give us the courage to pray dangerous prayers, knowing that your plans for us are good. May we die to ourselves daily and live for you. In Jesus' name, Amen.