

STM Team Meeting Agenda

Month of March

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| 1. Open/Brief Prayer | 2 minutes |
| 2. Communication/Reminders | 2-3 minutes |
| • STM 2019 Monthly Fast , 3 rd Wednesday of the month | |
| 3. Weekly Discussion | 7-12 minutes |

Monthly Topic: **Keys to Effective Prayer**

During the month of February, we studied prayer as a key to developing a closer relationship with God. We learned that prayer is communion with God; it is spending quality time with Him – both speaking and listening to Him. Developing a closer, intimate relationship with God positions us to hear His voice and to receive answers to our prayers. This month we will look at ways to improve the effectiveness of our prayers.

Monthly Discussion Scriptures

Week One: 1 John 5:14 (NKJV), *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

Weekly Reflection Thought: Consider your prayer habits and how they line up with the will of God.

For Further Discussion: Jesus taught us to pray for our needs and desires. A perfect example, in the Bible comes from the Lord's Prayer: "Give us this day our daily bread." As we seek Him according to His purposes, our desires cease to be merely natural requests, but delightful to the Lord. We are joining with Him to achieve the Jeremiah 29:11 plans He has for our lives – the plans that will prosper us and give us a hope and a future! Share with your team how you pray according to the will of God.

Week Two: 1 Peter 3:11-12 (NIV), *They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

Weekly Reflection Thought: During the week, think about how you can pursue peace!

For Further Discussion: We have all heard the phrase, "follow peace," used as a standard by which believers can live. But what does that really mean? The biblical basis for true peace lies in righteousness (right standing with God). From our position of righteousness we receive a peace that allows us to face whatever comes our way. We can stand in absolute confidence that God is on our side! As He supplies us with His wisdom, guidance and protection, our prayers manifest in the way He intends. Discuss with your team how you pursue peace in the midst of a challenge.

**VIEW NEXT WEEK'S FASTING FOCUS
ON PAGE 2**

Monthly Prayer/Fasting Focus:

Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. Matthew 18:19 (NIV)

Pray for the STM volunteers, congregants, leaders, and staff of Lakewood Church:

- That we would pursue quality time with God through prayer.
- That we would strive to pray and live in alignment with God's perfect will and plan for our lives.
- That we would strive to do good and proactively pursue peace.
- That we would consistently deal with unforgiveness and be quick to ask for forgiveness.
- That we would walk by faith during seasons of waiting, "seeking" and "knocking" until the answer comes.

Week Three: Mark 11:25 (NIV), *And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.*

Weekly Reflection Thought: This week, reflect upon the true value of forgiveness.

For Further Discussion: The biggest roadblock to answered prayer is often found in unforgiveness toward others. As humans, we find it quite easy to give ourselves a break when we mess up, while refusing to see others with the same empathy and compassion. But that is not how God sees us. He makes it clear that the forgiveness of others is not an option. As believers, we recognize that **nothing anyone has done** is reason enough to sacrifice our relationship with God. Share a story of forgiveness with your team.

Week Four: Matthew 7:7-8 (NLT), *Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

Weekly Reflection Thought: Reflect on your behavior as you wait on God.

For Further Discussion: Standing in prayer always includes an element of time. But, God's timing can be different from ours. When we submit our petitions, we must do so with the understanding that God will always bring our prayer requests to fruition in the appropriate season. Our drive-thru culture can make it difficult to simply wait. Yet, a mature Christian understands that God has His own reasons for delaying. Talk with your team about a time when God delayed the answer to your prayer and it turned out better than you thought it would.

Week Five: Philippians 4:6 (NIV), *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

Weekly Reflection Thought: Meditate on how God's promises bring you comfort.

For Further Discussion: Some of us are more prone to worry than others, yet all of us have had the opportunity to be anxious about something. When we find ourselves struggling with the urge to stress out over a situation, we can ask God to reveal whatever unbelief or unhealed wounds are preventing us from trusting in Him completely. By confessing our fears, we can receive the faith we need to allow us to focus only on Him and not on our circumstances. Staying in the Word and praying consistently reminds us that we don't have to worry about anything. Everything is possible because God is working on our behalf! Share with your team how you push worry away and trust God.

4. Closing Prayer/Encouragement
Reminder: Pray for Pastor/Speaker, Worship, Harvest

2-3 minutes

TOTAL TIME:

15-20 minutes