

Divine Warmth: Pray Together
Acts 2:42-47, 4:1-32, 12:1-19
01/27/2019

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. How do you prefer to pray - alone or with someone? Share your reason.
2. When you have prayed with others, what makes this most meaningful? How can it also be disruptive?
3. Have you ever prayed for someone you don't get along with? Did praying for them change anything about your relationship with that person?
4. What does it mean to pray together as a church? How does praying together as a church creates warmth among ourselves? How does praying for one another brings out deeper intimacy among ourselves?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Break into groups and discuss these prayers Paul prayed over the church: Eph. 1:15-23, Phil. 1:3-11, Col. 1:3-14, 2 Thes. 1:3-12. What can we learn from these prayers regarding the posture, the content and the inspiration which can guide our prayers? Pay close attention to how these prayers can foster intimacy and warmth among its members.
2. Spiritual director Alan Fading offers this statement: "Prayer is a relationship I'm cultivating more than a discipline I'm practicing." How do you respond to his thought? How might this apply to praying with others?
3. Read Acts 12:1-19. How do you think this event impacted the early Christians' relationship with God? How might it impact ours?
4. Dietrich Bonhoeffer has written: "Offering intercessory prayer means nothing other than Christians bringing one another into the presence of God, seeing each other under the cross of Jesus as poor human being and sinners in need of grace... I can no longer condemn or hate other Christians for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble they cause me. In intercessory prayer the face that may have been strange and intolerable to me is transformed into the face of one for whom Christ died, the face of a pardoned sinner." Do you share his sentiment? How can we remind ourselves of this perspective? What about our prayer towards non-Christians?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. How can we, as a church, pray together more? What are some things that we can pray more as a church?
2. Who are some people God is putting on your heart to pray for this week? Will you commit to praying for them?