

# More KOG Insights

“Case for Christ”, part 4, October 3rd, 2021  
Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church

## Opportunities From the KOG:

**F** \_\_\_\_\_ over **F** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mark 1:21-28)

**C** \_\_\_\_\_ over **C** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mark 1:29-34, Mark 10:42-45)

## Observations From Jesus' Choices:

(Mark 1:35-39, John 5:19;18:36, 1 Timothy 2:4-6)

## Obstacles to Experiencing the KOG:

**R** \_\_\_\_\_ rituals  
(Mark 1:32-34)

**R** \_\_\_\_\_ without praying  
(Mark 1:35-36, Luke 5:15-16)

God \_\_\_\_\_ have a plan for your life!

Praying is about \_\_\_\_\_!

**R** \_\_\_\_\_ physical healing  
(Mark 1:37-39)

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## **This Week's Discussion Guide:**

Welcome to our fourth week of our 10 week study and discussion of the Gospel of Mark. Our last week meeting will be the week of Sunday, November 14th (the week before Thanksgiving :).

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). May our church family grow warmer together as we meet in small groups to develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to walk with Jesus and apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

### **Getting Started:**

Last Sunday morning, the Kingdom of God was described as offering freedom over formality. Jesus was more interested in helping people get free than abiding by some formalities that were established by religious leaders.

Speaking of formalities ... when was the last time you really dressed up for a special occasion? What does 'getting dressed up' look like for you? What is an event in the future that you are looking forward to that you are planning on 'dressing up' for?

Also last Sunday morning, Jesus was described as using His authority to offer compassion and not coldness.

Speaking of cold ... what is the coldest temperature that you have experienced? How long was the experience?

For those of us who lived outside of southern CA and in colder weather, do you miss it or any part of it?

In Mark 1:35, we read and reflected on how Jesus got up early and went to a desolate place where he prayed. How would you describe your experience with prayer growing up? How has your praying changed over time?

When it comes to your current prayer life, do you ...

- prefer to pray silently instead of out loud
- find your mind wandering when trying to pray
- rarely think about praying
- look forward to prayer time as a group
- feel awkward about praying out loud
- don't really know how to pray
- other ...

### **Looking back to last Sunday:**

Looking back at your notes from last Sunday, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, encouraged you, challenged you or confused you?

## **Digging Deeper:**

This past Sunday, Bob shared how our solitude times with God should be more about 'connecting' with God than just expressing our 'wish list' to God or learning new facts.

In an attempt to dig a little deeper about prayer ... let's reflect on what Jesus said in Matthew 6:5-15 when he taught some on praying.

From this prayer passage, what words or phrases stand out to you?  
Of these verses, which one(s) do you feel is something important for you to remember?  
What verse or phrase do you have a question about that we can discuss together?

Jesus gave this 'prayer outline' to the disciples in response to their request for him to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1). It was given to help us learn how to pray and not as a prayer to be recited over and over again like some 'magic mantra'.

In the prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), Jesus gives us five components to include in our prayers. Let's see if we can identify all five of them and then let's try to put each of them in our own words.

(hint: each verse contains one of the five and they are listed at the end of this discussion guide :)

Looking at the five emphases, a tendency for many is to spend more time on the 'asking for our needs' part than any of the others. Jesus wasn't telling his disciples back then and today to make sure all five components are included every time we pray. But, to have a more balanced prayer life, it is helpful to include the other four at various times.

As you look at the different pieces of a balance prayer life, what is your experience with including each one in your prayer times? How would you rank the five from most expressed to least expressed in your prayer life?

In the letters Paul wrote to the churches he started, he included a number of prayers for the churches. From these prayers, we get insight into what God's desires are for us. Let's read two of Paul's prayers (Ephesians 1:15-19 and Colossians 1:9-12) and share what stands out to us. From these prayers, what does Paul consider as important about spiritual maturity and growth? Which of the things Paul prayed for would you most like others to pray for you?

## **Looking Back and Ahead:**

Looking back on this week's message and study, what is most important for you to remember and ask God for the strength to live in light of?

## **Praying Together:**

One of the benefits of meeting together is praying for one another. Before we wrap up, let's each share one prayer request so that we can lift each other up in prayer.

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The five components Jesus encouraged us to include in our prayer life:  
praise for God's character, prayer for Kingdom expansion and more of God's will to be done in our broken world, prayer for material provision, prayer for forgiveness and for the grace to forgive others, and prayer for protection.