Series: How to Talk to God Scripture: Ephesians 3:12-19 Date: June 11 & 12, 2016

—[LET'S TALK]—

• Has God ever answered "no" to a prayer, and later you realized "no" was the best answer?

-[LET'S WARM UP]-

- What has been your experience with prayer in the past?
- What do you believe is the purpose of prayer? Has your belief ever changed?
- What is the difference between knowing about God, and experiencing God?
- How do you pray currently? Where did you learn how to pray?

-[LET'S DIG | CHOOSE 1]-

- Read Psalm 27:7-14, Luke 10:38-42, and discuss doing for God vs. being with God
- What does the psalmist's heart say to him while praying for God to hear? Why?
- 2. What attitude does the psalmist conclude on? How important is that attitude?
- 3. How might Jesus' words to Martha in Luke 10 pertain to being with God in prayer?
- 4. How does simply being with God impact the content of our prayers?

- Read Luke 11:1-13, John 15:5-8, and talk about centering on God in prayer.
- 1. How does Jesus' prayer begin? Why is this important for the rest of the prayer?
- In Jesus' requests, do you notice an order of any kind? (think about who the requests are for)
- 3. What does remaining in Christ (the vine) have to do with prayer?
- 4. Does God want to give us what we ask for? Why or why not?

—[LET'S ACT]—

- Take the 21 Day Prayer Challenge!
- Work on focusing your prayers on God this week. Each day this week, thank God or Praise Him
 for an attribute of His character. Look beyond what He has done for you, and adore Him for
 who He is. For example, tomorrow you might give God praise and adoration for designing the
 universe, or for being Truth, etc.



-[SERMON REVIEW]-

- Scriptures referenced: [Mt 28:19-20] [Jn 17:20-23] [Rom 8:22-27] [Gal 4:4-7] [Eph 2:18; 3:12-19]
- We can often feel like prayer doesn't actually do anything. But the problem is usually because the focus of our prayers is not on God.
- Prayer is a conversation with God, which He has already initiated.
- God is infinitely, profoundly happy and filled with perfect joy and He created you and me so He could share His love with us! When we pray, we come into the presence of God to immerse ourselves in His joy and happiness!
- The Holy Spirit helps us pray because it communicates the deep, inner yearnings for God and His will in this world that we often have trouble expressing in words.
- Prayer allows you to experience God! In prayer, you must wrestle with the riches in Christ Jesus until they take hold of your soul, and you begin living out of God's riches instead of this world's!

—[NOTES]—		