

## **A Praying Life Session 12:**

Read chapters 31-32 (Waves Cover) or Chapters 33-34 (Blue geometric cover)

Memorize 1 Corinthians 2:9

List out 2-3 highlights from your reading

### **Group Study Guide:**

Paul Miller has strongly emphasized throughout the book that prayer helps us because we do not have control over our heart and lives or the hearts and lives of others. Prayer is intertwined with our relationship with God because he is in us and we are in him as followers of Christ.

“I’m not hunting for an experience with God; I’m inviting God into my life experience. He is in me, and I am in him. As I bring to him my real life with my real needs, he acts in amazing ways. He is at work touching my life, doing what I can’t do. The result? Thanksgiving. You don’t have to work at worship when God is so alive.”

What does it look like to “hunt for an experience” vs. inviting God into your life experience?

Paul Miller writes: “We don’t need a praying life because it is a duty. That would wear thin quickly. We need time to be with our Father every day because every day our hearts and the hearts of those around us are overgrown with weeds.”

Why would praying based on duty alone grow tiresome? What motivates you to pray? Has that motivation changed throughout this study?

According to Paul Miller, what are some of the problems we face when we are in the midst of an “unfinished story”?

As an example of living in an “unfinished story”, Paul Miler talks about the exile to Babylon and the return to Jerusalem and reconstruction of the new temple. He writes: “Every person who heard these words died without seeing anything happen. In fact, their children and grandchildren died. For five hundred and fifty long years, nothing happened. God was present but silent.”

As a group read Psalm 137:1-6. If you were Jewish at the time, what would you have been experiencing? How did God use a situation as bleak as the exile to Babylon to bring glory to himself?

What hope does this give you when you’re unable to see what God is doing in things you’re praying about and praying for?