

Group Study - Breakthrough Prayer – Moses

Bible readings Exodus 3:1–10 & Psalm 77:1–9

27/1/2019 - John Malcolm

John spoke of taking family to a locked room where you have an hour to solve puzzles in order to escape. You are never quite sure when you are at the last puzzle and the breakthrough to release you will happen.

Have you ever been to an escape game like this? If so tell the group about it.

Read Exodus 1.6-14

What problem faced the people of Israel?

How was this aggravated in vs 15-16?

John suggested the people of Israel needed a breakthrough and we find the beginnings of this in Exodus 3.1-10.

How was the attitude of Winston Churchill or JF Kennedy expressed in their respective speeches?

we will fight them on the beaches (Churchill)

Inaugural address, *ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.* (Kennedy)

What did Moses say in response to God?

Why do you think Moses was so defeatist in his attitude?

Read Exodus 3.7-9

What is God responding to in these verses?

What do you suppose these cries/prayers to God would have been like - well-crafted prayers, words of anger / desperation?

Read Psalm 77.1-9

How do the words of this Psalm reflect the cry of the human heart?

What do this tell us about the range of prayers offered to God?

Read Matthew 6:5–8, Luke 18.9-14 & 1 Samuel 16.7

What does this teach us about God's view of people at prayer and the words they use when they pray?

While it is admirable to learn how to pray, what is God really listening for when people pray?

John Onweuchekwa wrote *God rewards the prayer of novices ... it isn't about our expertise*. How might these ideas encourage those who are new to prayer?

Read Ephesians 3:20 & Matthew 7.9-11

What do these verses teach us about prayer?

John Onweuchekwa writes the wonder of prayer is when we ... *as weak prayers ... meet a willing Saviour*.

When it comes to our prayers do you think Jesus is a ... *willing Saviour*?

Why do you think God may or may not be willing to answer prayers?

With regard to prayer, in what ways might God be as compassionate as he is capable?

John stated *Greyfriars is a praying church*.

What evidence do you see that might support this assertion?

Do you think there is a discernible link between:

Our spiritual health

Our mission

Our achievements at Greyfriars

and the prayerfulness of the people at Greyfriars? If so, discuss the connection between prayerfulness and these aspects of church life.

JC Ryle wrote, *Just as the first sign of life in an infant when born into the world is the act of breathing, so the first act of men and women when they are born again is praying*.

What do you think of this statement and if it has merit what might this mean for the prayer life of us as individuals or as a church?

JC Ryle also wrote *prayer ... is the highest charity. He who loves me best loves me in his prayers*.

How might the prayers of the people of Greyfriars be a sign of love for others?

John stated a breakthrough we seek in 2019 is to help people become more confident and more involved in the prayer life of our church. *It is not that we want one or two prayer giants to step up, rather we want every member of our church to kneel down.*

In Exodus it seems the prayers of many ordinary people moved the heart of God and contributed to the breakthrough they longed for. What does this teach us about importance of many people praying?

What do you think would inspire the people of our church to be more prayerful?

What difference do you think it would make to our relationship with God and with others if we more prayerful as a church?

How might your growth group organise the time to allow for an extra few minutes in prayer together?

What breakthrough prayer (something that would stretch your faith) could you pray for as a group?

(Perhaps you could keep a list of things you pray for and note when they are answered).

For personal reflection

What inspires me to pray or keeps me from praying?

When do I find it easiest / hardest to pray?

If prayer is an act of love, who will I love (pray for) today?