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*“Prayer is how God shares His power with us,
to really affect things ‘out there’ in the world.”*
[Ben Sternke]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

Share how God chose to answer a prayer that took time (afterwards) for you to recognize His goodness, grace, and generosity in (His answer).

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*“I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.
Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.”*
[Psalm 116:1-2]

BIG IDEA

In His sovereignty, God has chosen to make prayer indispensable to the doing of His will, and we are graciously invited to participate in this!

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

Romans 15:25-33

1. What is the context of Paul’s request for prayer? Why does he seem to be asking for intercession?
2. Paul uses the term “strive together with me in prayers to God on my behalf.” What does this phrase reveal about the nature of interceding for others in prayer?
3. In the sermon we heard, *“Intercessory prayer is a way of loving others deeply and powerfully.”* How does this kind of prayer demonstrate love for others? How can our group make this more tangible for one another?
4. Paul saw prayer as indispensable to God’s work. How does this perspective challenge or affirm your current view of prayer?
5. How can our small group cultivate a culture of “striving together” in prayer for one another’s needs and the broader Kingdom mission?
6. Reflect on Paul’s prayer requests in v. 30-32. What are specific areas in your life where you need others to “strive together” with you in prayer?
7. How can you align your prayers with God’s Kingdom purposes in a deeper way, as Paul demonstrates in this passage?

8. How does Paul's belief in prayer as "indispensable" encourage you to persevere when your prayers seem unanswered?
9. What does it mean to "release God's power and favor" through prayer? How can this shape your approach to prayer?
10. Imagine if God answered all your prayers from the past week. How would the world around you change? How might this reflection inspire you to pray differently?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Our great hope in prayer is not to change what God has planned, but to bring about what He has planned. Significance comes from the blessing and dignity of participation and partnership with God in prayer! Based on the Holy Spirit's wisdom and guidance, what is a step of obedience that you can take this week [to join God and His will IN PRAYER?](#)

Remember ... God's will WILL be done whether WE pray or not, but His will will NOT be done WITHOUT prayer!

PRAYER FOCUS

Participating In God's Will

- Let's take a moment to marvel at the sovereignty of God. In His infinite wisdom, He has chosen to make prayer an indispensable part of accomplishing His will. What an incredible privilege—that the Creator of the universe invites us to partner with Him through prayer!
- As we pray together, let's thank God for this gracious invitation and ask Him to align our hearts with His purposes. Let's seek His guidance and courage to pray boldly, trusting that He works through our prayers to bring about His perfect will.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Romans 15 Commentary & Prayer as Participation](#)
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- [Befriending Our Anxiety podcast](#)
 - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.