

HOW TO PLANT AN ORCHARD

Week 6: WHY PRAYER?

Kaleo Mission & Vision

To equip everyday people to *GO, LOVE, SERVE* in the ordinary spaces God has placed them.

Principles We Practice

ABIDING: Right Position
OBEDIENCE: Right Action
SURRENDER: Right Attitude
GO: Right Response

Prayer invites us into a relationship with God, aligns our hearts with His purposes, and allows us to participate in what He is doing.

(NIV) Exodus 32:7–10 [7]Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. [8]They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.' [9]"I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. [10]Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.

DISCUSS: Why do you think God tells Moses what is happening instead of simply carrying out His judgment?

DISCUSS: What do you think God is inviting Moses to do at this moment?

DISCUSS: If God already knows what we need, what does that tell us about the purpose of prayer?

Matthew 6:8 "Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." (Prayer isn't about informing God; it's about living in relationship with Him).

Exodus 32:11–13 [11]But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? [12]Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. [13]Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'"

Moses appeals to three things:

1. God's character and reputation
2. God's purposes
3. God's faithfulness

DISCUSS: What stands out to you about the way Moses prays?

DISCUSS: How might our prayers change if we spent more time focusing on who God is rather than just what we want Him to do?

Exodus 32:14 Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

DISCUSS: "God relents" Does God change? Does prayer change God's plans? Does prayer actually make a difference?

Biblical Truth: God is unchanging in His character. Scripture presents prayer as something God genuinely responds to.

WHY PRAY?

1. Prayer aligns our hearts with God's heart. The Holy Spirit helps us pray. Prayer isn't just us trying to get God to agree with our perspective. It's an opportunity for the Spirit to shape our hearts and bring our desires into alignment with God's will.

2. Prayer allows us to participate in God's work. Moses stood in the gap for people who had turned their backs on God. He interceded for them. God could accomplish His purposes without Moses, but He chose to involve Moses.

3. Prayer keeps us in relationship with God. Relationships aren't built on exchanging information alone. They're built on connection, trust, communication, and presence. God doesn't invite us to pray because He has forgotten something. He invites us to pray because He desires a relationship with us.

HOPE SHOT: God doesn't need our prayers to know what's happening. But He invites us to pray because He wants us involved in what He's doing.

REFLECT:

Are you uncomfortable with waiting? Do you need to see and control the situations? How does God want you to handle these things? How will you do that?

Who might God be inviting you to pray for, even if that person has frustrated or disappointed you?

What makes it difficult for you to keep praying when you don't see anything changing?