



## Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

“Prayer” Series Lesson 3 – February 21, 2016

Effective Prayer through our Mediator, Jesus Christ

### I. Starter Questions:

Does God hear our prayers without a mediator? What about those who are not saved, does God respond to their prayers? How do we gain access through our prayers to the very presence of God?

We will break the series into multiple lessons/subject matter:

1. Why Does God want us to Pray?
2. The Effectiveness of Prayer
  - a. Does Prayer Change the Way God Acts?
  - b. Effective Prayer made possible through Jesus**
  - c. Who are we supposed to pray too?
  - d. Role of Holy Spirit
3. Important Considerations for Effective Prayer
  - a. Pray “According to God’s Will”
  - b. Praying with Faith and Obedience
  - c. Forgiveness and Humility
  - d. Praying Continually and Earnestly
  - e. Waiting on the Lord, What about Unanswered Prayer?
4. Praise and Thanksgiving

### II. Why Do we need a mediator anyway?

#### 1 Timothy 2:5

**5 “There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ.”**

- Due to our sin nature, we have no right to enter into His presence without a Holy mediator
- A sinless mediator is required to bridge between us and God

#### John 14:6-7

**6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”**

With Jesus as the only mediator between God and man, does God hear the prayers of those who do not trust in Jesus?

- Yes, God is omniscient, he hears all and is aware of the prayers
- God may even answer some of these prayers out of His mercy and desire to bring them to salvation or further His will
- God has not promised to respond to the prayers of unbelievers
- The only prayers He has promised to hear and respond are the Prayers offered according to His will through the prayers of His children

What about true believers in the Old Testament and anyone before Christ?

- Jesus as our moderator was foreshadowed by the sacrificial system and the offerings made by the priests in the temple
- No saving merit is inherent in the sacrificial system; Sacrificial system believers were accepted by God only on the basis of the future work of Christ foreshadowed by that system

### Hebrews 7:23-28

**23** Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; **24** but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. **25** Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. **26** Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. **27** Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. **28** For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

### Hebrews 10:1-4

**1** The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. **2** Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. **3** But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. **4** It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

### Romans 3:23-26

**23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **25** God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— **26** he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

### Hebrews 10:20-22

**20** by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

- Christ's mediational work gives us confidence to approach God with our prayers
- We approach God as priests, or people who belong in the temple and have a duty to be in the most sacred places of the temple
- "Holy Places" is talking about the reality in the unseen spiritual realm
- The "true sanctuary" is heaven itself, where Christ sits "to appear in the presence of God on our behalf"

### III. Group Questions:

1. Discuss the term "Effective Prayer" concept requiring a mediator for Christians?
2. Discuss the idea of how God hears, responds and/or answers the prayer of non-Christians?
3. Discuss how the sacrificial system was always only intended to be temporary and a foreshadow of the future work of Christ? What scriptures support this as a permanent priesthood?
4. When you pray to God, did you actual consider that "you were entering through the curtain, being Jesus body, to the temple of God" as in Hebrews 10:20?