

Wesley Prayer Challenge

Week 1, Introduction

johnstown.church/prayerchallenge

Welcome & Introductions

Your name?

What is one of your regular prayer practices?

What are your hopes for this class?

Large Group Time

When do you think of surrender as something good?

When do you think of it as something bad?

Read Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Watch Video: Session 1

Small Group Time

Read: John 6:35, 8:12, 11:25-26, 14:6.

What do these scriptures tell us about Jesus and his relationship with God the father?

The Covenant prayer starts out with "I am." The "I" is the person praying. What does the use of this phrase say about our relationship with God?

"I am no longer my own, but thine." calls us to focus not on our own desires first but instead God's. How easy or hard is this for you?

“Put me to what thou wilt.” We are called to be messengers of God’s peace, good news, forgiveness, and grace. How do you share the good news today? How could you share it tomorrow?

“Rank me with whom thou wilt.” Think of three things you believe people assume about you. Take turns sharing them without group offering any feedback until everyone has gone. Then in turn share, did anything surprise you about what you heard from someone else? Are you surprised how people responded to your list?

When is reputation important? When should it be ignored?

“Put me to doing.” In turn name an issue you see facing your/our community today. Then discuss how could you personally be involved in addressing it?

Large Group Time

“put me to suffering.”

Is suffering something we should actually be praying for?

Read: Luke 9:57-62

What excuses have you made to put off something you knew you needed to do?

What was the most challenging part of today’s lesson for you?

Homework

Do part 1 in the book.