

<b>Series:</b> All Things Rise	<b>Reference:</b> 2 Chronicles 6:41	<b>Title:</b> Free & Boundless	<b>Date:</b> 3.24.19
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## Community Group Questions

### Take time to pray through the Six:Eight Prayer Foci for 2019

*If the Holy Spirit gives anyone a specific word for the church  
share them with the other Community Group Leaders.*

- 1. FREEDOM:** Pray against spiritual attack on our church body & its members, so that kingdom ministry goes unhindered.
- 2. SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION:** Pray we'd abide in the Presence of Christ, honoring the Word & Spirit of God, being transformed & becoming more effective in witness. That we'd be drawn deeply into worship & prayer in powerful ways this year.
- 3. LEADERSHIP:** Pray for leadership to be filled with the knowledge of the Word & power of the Spirit, operating out of the two as gracious strong servant leaders.
- 4. MINISTRIES:** For all 8 church ministries to run smoothly, having all current & future resources provided for them to thrive (*Kids, Community Groups, Kingdom Opportunities, Stewardship, Impressions, Worship Arts, Prayer, Missions*).
- 5. LOCAL EVANGELISM:** That we'd preach the Word boldly & minister in the power of the Spirit to see people come to faith & publicly declare that through baptism. - for divine openings with neighbors, coworkers, friends & Community Partners.
- 6. CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION:** To be a '*House of Prayer for all Nations*' (Isaiah 56:7), obedient to the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20), overflowing to our Kinship Network relationships reaching Arab world Muslims, and other mission endeavors of the church.
- 7. GIVING:** Pray that we'd be stretched in faithful giving of our financial resources in order not to be hindered in our kingdom ministry as a church.

### Study Questions

1. **ICEBREAKER:** One person gives their testimony! Listen to their story quietly, then spend a minute in silent prayer before the Holy Spirit about it. Allow the Spirit to speak into what was said, then share anything of encouragement with that person.
2. Elizabeth Barrett Browning said, *“Earth’s crammed with Heaven, and every common bush afire with God. But only those who see take off their shoes. The rest just sit around & pluck blackberries.”*
  1. Do you take off your shoes, or pluck blackberries?
3. **GOODNESS:** Read Genesis 1 out loud together.
  1. The first chapter of Genesis contains the Hebrew word *tob*, “good,” seven times, indicating that God’s creative work was good in every aspect. The last time it is used in the chapter it is modified by the adverb *me’od*, “very,” to mean “very good” (Gen. 1:31). God Himself is good; He let all of His “goodness,” *tub*, pass before Moses (Exod. 33:19). God is, therefore, “ultimate good,” *tub*, *tob*, and the source of all that is good. If anyone or any thing is good it is because they share in His goodness. Jesus declared Him alone good (Mark 10:18). If God was not good, how could anyone trust in Him?<sup>1</sup>
  2. Read Exodus 33:18-34:8 (you can also read: Psalm 107:1, Psalm 86:15, Numbers 14:18 & 20, Exodus 22:27, Psalm 78:38)
    1. What’s the image proclaimed here? And what does that mean to us who say we ‘follow God’?
4. **HOLINESS:** Only God is holy in himself; only in relation to him can anything else become holy. Since the basic meaning of holiness is to “set apart,” the idea of separation is integral to the term. The holy God is set apart from the universe, for example, as its creator. God’s being “marked off” from the entire creaturely universe of which he is creator & preserver constitutes his holiness.<sup>2</sup>
  1. Read Isa. 6:3-8, 12:6, 17:7, 29:19 - What image of God do you get from these & the thoughts above?
  2. In chapter 6, how does Isaiah’s attitude towards his own sin make us regard ours before a holy God? How is God’s holiness tied to his Goodness? How is this related to 2 Co 5:17?
  3. Read John 6:68-69 - notice how the holiness of God is attributed to Jesus.
  4. In Ex 19:6, it says of God’s people: *“you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”* What does that mean for us as his followers now? How does it inform our lives?
5. **JUSTICE:** In Micah 6:8 (read aloud) the prophet tells us what is *good* by referring first to the word translated ‘justice’. Justice in the Bible means more than our common notion of ‘fairness’. Justice, righteousness, mercy & forgiveness all merge into one another. God’s justice becomes merciful & redemptive....the doing of justice, righteousness, mercy & forgiveness are all part of one another in the character of God, and therefore are to be part of one another in the good society which reflects his character...But a fair society is not necessarily a good society. To do justice in Micah’s sense is a justice seen not only in the courts, but also beyond them. (*It is seen in actions of forgiveness, gestures of conciliation to others & a refusal to live by the law of retaliation*). As George MacDonald put it: ‘Man is not made for justice from his fellows, but for love, which is greater, and by including supersedes

<sup>1</sup> Eugene E. Carpenter and Philip W. Comfort, *Holman Treasury of Key Bible Words: 200 Greek and 200 Hebrew Words Defined and Explained* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 75.

<sup>2</sup> Carl F. H. Henry, *God, Revelation, and Authority*, vol. 6 (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1999), 325.

it.' Interestingly St Paul moves immediately in Romans 13 from his discussion of the state to writing about love (Romans 13:8ff). This underlines the truth of F. R. Barry's words: 'Justice is the political expression of love.' The state exists to promote the conditions within which neighbor love can be expressed between people - that is the true meaning of justice.

1. Read Romans 13:8-10 - how does love fulfill the law? And likewise, how does taking on the character of Christ make us more & more like God in these issues, making life better for us, and making us better for life?
6. In thinking of the song lyrics, "*God is so Good, So good to me!*," the verses read, and the sentiments expressed...do you share this view of God? How has God been good to you? How do you see God's goodness, holiness & justice intertwined?
  1. Take a few quiet moments to yourself & consider God's goodness in your life. Jot them down, and be ready to come back together to share them.
  2. Pair off with another person in the room, hand them your notes, and pray thanks for this goodness over each other.
7. Discuss together Alistair Begg's quote, "*God requiring our obedience is in itself an act of grace. Because He knows that the path he puts before us will result in the best for our lives.*"
  1. How is our obedience to the Lord good for us & everyone else?
  2. How does obedience to God in light of his goodness, justice & holiness make us the best we can be?