

DANGEROUS PRAYERS

Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Part 2

Pray For Unity is the second message of our current series, **Dangerous Prayers**. For most of us our prayers are too safe. Instead of safe prayers let's get dangerous with our prayers and become answers to Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-23 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You...that they may be one as we are one: I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them like You have loved Me." The blessings of God flow where there is unity.

Pastor Curt outlined three reasons we should pray for unity: 1) because **we desperately need each other**, 2) so **those outside God's family will see God's love**, and 3) because **we can do infinitely more together**. Imagine experiencing this: (Acts 4:32-34) "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had ... And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them ..." Pastor Curt said, "We are one body, under one name (Jesus), serving one God, giving all praise and all glory to Him! It all starts when a church prays for unity!"

Discussion Questions

- Think outside the box. What do you do at work, home, school, or in your community that shows Christ's love?
- If all the Christians who lived in your neighborhood were in "complete unity," how would your neighborhood look different?
- Think of a time when you were a part of Christians showing love in unity. How did it come about? Is it still happening?
- Have you been accepted by others as Christ accepts us? How would you describe the feeling? How can we live this way? How can our Group become known for showing—not just talking about—God's love?

Prayer Focus

Pray for compassion to accept others as Christ accepted you. Ask confidently for the Holy Spirit to give you boldness to show the love of Christ. Pray the local church will become known by our actions, as the hope of the world.

Next Steps

Pray for unity in the church this week and seek out opportunities to become known for Christ's love. Attend the Saturday prayer services during our 21 days of prayer at your campus, and focus on having an encounter with God each day.

Leader Tip

Challenge your group members to commit to doing the "First 15" exercise every morning this week. Check in mid-week to encourage your group members to continue to participate, and when you meet next week, ask them about their experience with this exercise. How did it affect their daily lives? How did it affect their relationships with God?