

Sacred Rhythms

The rhythm of **Optimistic Citizenship**

Three tools to demonstrate Optimism to
the next generation

Our Prayers

Fervent Prayer changes things:

‘Prayer works, but prayer is work’ 1 Timothy 2:1-3

How to pray for our leaders:

Seek **Spiritual Insight** from God

Wisdom to solve complex problems

Courage to lead with truth

Our Trust

**No leader, no political party, nor any event, any movement, or ideology can
destroy our great democratic republic without the express permission of our
sovereign God. Acts 17:26-28**

**God is actively assessing and acting in the lives
of our leaders. Psalm 118:9, Psalm 107:39-40**

Our Hope

Our focus is on Jesus returning to set up a new Kingdom

Romans 8:24-25; 1 John 3:2-3

Auburn Grace Community Church

Sunday June 30, 2024

Pastor Phil Sparling

Life Group Discussion Questions – June 30, 2024

Exodus 18:21 *Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.*

DISCOVER

1. Describe a time when someone came alongside of you and shared a pearl of wisdom that lifted your spirit. Why was this advice or account so impactful to you? How are you different today as a result? Have you been able to “pay it forward”? How so?
2. By your personal understanding, define “citizenship.” How is citizenship different than the term, “society”? ...or “culture”? What is the role of belonging in all three terms? Where does the need of belonging come from? What activities foster belonging? Which ones inhibit belonging?
3. As a group, compile a list of ten different “one anothers” from the Bible. Are the “one anothers” exclusive to Christian community? Can or should Christians be in fellowship with non-believers?
4. Where in our culture or other cultures do we see submission to authority?

EXPLORE

1. Read Acts 17:26-28. How does believing that God is the Originator of man boost our optimism? Discuss why knowing God as the Controller of world history reinforces our faith (i.e. determining that America would intervene in World War II). Have your unbelieving friends noticed this trust of God in you? In what ways?
2. Read Psalm 107:39-40 and 118:9. How can we use our earthly citizenship to help others see the frailty in the way they understand or trust God? In what ways can we use conventional wisdom and understanding to point to and validate Kingdom values?
3. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-3. How does praying and lifting thanksgiving up to God for others, even those we don't particularly like, help us to live a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity?
4. How would you explain the differences between entreaties, prayers, petitions and thanksgivings?

EXPERIENCE

1. When we are optimistic as believers, we are hopeful of our futures. We are hopeful of something that is 100% certain but not yet realized. How does this absolute certainty impact the choices we make every day? What evidences might others see in a person of unbridled confidence?
2. Who is someone in your life God has been calling you to pray for? Have you spent time in earnest prayer for a person-in-charge in your life whose leadership has been disappointing in some way? How might you intercede for them? What happens when we don't pray for our enemies? How will praying for others affect our own attitudes?
3. Discuss why you think most prayer meetings are poorly attended. What does this say about the Bride of Christ?
4. How can you make your prayer time more effective?

PRAY

Pray... Lord, grant me the patience and trust to wait upon Your perfect timing. I may not understand Your plan, but I know it is filled with hope and a future. Help me to rest in the assurance that Your ways are higher than my ways. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.