

6

Being 'Church'

6. Church is a praying community

Key idea

This study deals particularly with praying as 'church'. That is, when we pray together as a community. We are thinking of those times when we might pray in our weekly church meetings, at a prayer meeting, or even in small group—times when we are gathered as 'church'.

1. In his sermon on this topic, Jaime spoke about the three 'D's of church as a praying community. Can you recall them? What did he mean by each?
2. What did you think was the most important point made in the sermon on this topic?

Clarifying the message

3. How should churches pray? Look up the following verses Rom 12:12, Col 4:2, 1 Thes 5:17.
4. What should churches pray about? Make a list from your wider knowledge of the bible. For examples, see 1 Tim 2:1-4; Eph 6:18-20; James 5:14-15; Rom 15:30-33.

Living the message today

5. How should we as a church demonstrate our devotion to prayer?
6. What would your role be in this expression of prayer?
7. What do you find helpful when praying corporately?
8. Using your list of 'things that churches should pray for' that you made earlier, perhaps each selecting one matter for prayer, and pray together for these things. This exercise should take at least 15 minutes!

How do you think public (corporate) prayer should differ in character from private prayer?

If you were to lead a prayer time at church, how would you creatively help and inspire the congregation to participate in that time of prayer?

Does participation in church prayer always have to be 'spoken'?

The three 'D's of prayer from Jaime's sermon were:

*Dependence,
Devotion, and
Direction*