



PATH TO PEACE

TALK IT OVER

The Power of Persevering Prayer (in the Home)

Pastor Stacie Wood

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If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the document.

Scriptures

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV), Joel 2:17 (NIV), Genesis 32:1 (NIV), Joshua 2:16 (NIV), 2 Kings 14:8 (NIV), Jeremiah 7:16 (ESV), Isaiah 59:16 (NASB), Isaiah 53:12 (NIV), Romans 8:34 (NIV), Mark 10:46-49 (NIV)

Questions

1. 1 Peter 2:9 says that we are “a royal priesthood”. What do you think it means to stand before God on behalf of your children or the other people you love? What would it practically look like for you to become more of an intercessor for your home, friendships, or family relationships this season?
2. One of the most powerful lines in the message was, “Your greatest influence isn't in what you say to your kids, but in what you say to God about them.” Why do you think we so often put more energy into trying to control, fix, or manage people than we do into praying for them? How does beginning with intercession change your approach to parenting, mentoring, or influencing the people in your life?
3. In Joel 2:17, the priests cry out, “Spare your people, Lord.” This is not casual prayer—its desperate, emotional, persevering prayer. Have you ever experienced a season where you prayed like that for someone or something? What usually keeps us from praying with that kind of honesty, passion, and urgency?
4. The Hebrew word *pāgā'* describes intercession as persistent and even confrontational prayer—standing in the gap until God's mercy and human need meet. How would you keep persevering during a season where you had to keep praying even when nothing seemed to be changing, like Monica did over 31 years for Augustine? What helped you remain faithful during that time?

5. Looking back over your life, can you identify someone whose persistent prayers impacted your spiritual journey? How would you feel to learn that someone had been praying for you consistently? What does their example teach you about the long-term power of faithful intercession?
6. Galatians 6:9 encourages us not to grow weary in doing good because a harvest will come if we don't give up. Why do you think people often become discouraged in prayer, especially when praying for their kids or family members? What practices help you continue praying with faith instead of frustration?
7. Why do we use prayer as the last resort even though it is essential and how can we cultivate a lifestyle of praying first? Who do you need to intercede for? What bold requests could you ask on their behalf?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email JasonW@saddleback.com.