

# WELCOME TO WORD OF FAITH LIFE GROUPS **WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**

## LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

Praying Scripturally Against The Kingdom Of Darkness

Thursday, May 19, 2022 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

*Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching*

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### OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

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### WELCOME TO OUR GROUP (5 MINUTES)

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If this is your first time joining us, please introduce yourself! We are glad you took the time to join us today. Our group has four purposes:

1. **L... Learning together from God's Word**
2. **I... Interceding through prayer**
3. **F... true Fellowship in the Spirit of Christ**
4. **E...Evangelizing the lost**

### PRAISE & WORSHIP (5 MINUTES)

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### FACILITATION OF LESSON

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**Sermon Title:** *“Praying Scripturally Against The Kingdom Of Darkness”*

#### POINT 1

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The reason we're studying this is because we need to know how to pray prayers that will affect change in our community.

First, we have to realize that it's only the word of God that grows and prevails in people's lives.

The word will grow and prevail over any circumstance, any demon, or any force of the devil in any person's life or in any nation if it is planted in the ground prepared by prayer and watered by the word and the holy spirit.

The same principles for sowing and reaping a crop apply in both the natural and the spiritual realms. A harvest doesn't just happen for no reason, and it doesn't happen overnight. What does a farmer do?

The farmer prepares the ground and then plants the seed in the ground, and rain causes the crop to grow. Then finally, the crops are ready to harvest.

**Read: Matthew 9:38** – *“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”*

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In this passage the Bible calls people who are ready to receive the gospel spiritual harvest. And the Bible gives us instructions on how to pull people out of the kingdom of darkness and get a harvest of souls for the kingdom of light. In the natural realm, a crop is produced from seed. But before the seeds can be planted, the ground must be prepared.

Then in order to produce a harvest, after the seed is planted, it also has to be watered. The same is true in the spiritual realm. Spiritually, we prepare the ground of people's heart through scriptural prayer and sowing the incorruptible seed of God's Word.

#### **Notice what it says in 1 PETER 1:23:**

*"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible....." (INCORRUPTIBLE WHAT?)*  
Incorruptible seed! Then it tells you what that seed is. It says *".....by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."*

The Word has to be sown in people's heart through the preaching of the Word. It's the Word that brings light and illumination to men's hearts to set them free from the dominion of the devil.

**READ: PSALMS 119:130:** *"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."*

Without the word you will remain in darkness. Without the Word you will remain ignorant to the devil's devices.

#### **QUESTION**

1. What are the principles of sowing and reaping a harvest in the natural?
2. Why does the Lord call people who are ready to receive a spiritual harvest? What is the process?
3. What areas in your life has the word given you light?

#### **POINT 2**

The responsibility of sowing the incorruptible word and telling people about Jesus' victory is on every believer and not just preachers.

The Bible doesn't say only preachers go out teach all nations.

**READ: MATTHEW 28:19,** *"Go ye ("YE" means "YOU") therefore, and teach all nations..."*

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The devil has been defeated and dethroned by Jesus from his place of dominion over believers, but now believers have to go tell people the good news. In this great commission Jesus instructed believers to preach and teach his word in all nations. He didn't say, "*Go ye therefore and pray to pull down demonic strongholds in all nations.*"

If believers only pray in regard to the harvest, but no one ever sowed the word, there would never be a harvest of souls – no one would come out of Satan's dominion.

We will see bad things begin to escalate in our communities because believers are not sowing the word. Some are still closet Christians. Nobody even knows they're saved!

A person can pray for a crop all year long, but if he doesn't get out and plant some seed in his garden, he will come up empty-handed at harvest time. And I don't care how good the seed is or how well-prepared the ground is – if there is no water or rain, there will be no crop and no increase.

#### **QUESTION:**

1. What is the responsibility of every born-again believer young and old? Explain what every born-again believer should be doing and why?

#### **POINT 3**

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In the Bible, "water" is a type of both the Word and the Holy Spirit.

**READ: JAMES 5:7** – "*Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*"

The "rain" mentioned in this verse is a type of the Holy Spirit.

**READ: ZECHARIAH 10:1** – "*Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain*"

The rain in this verse is referring to the spiritual rain of the Holy Spirit. He says, "*Ask the Lord to send the rain.*" To prepare the ground for the seed of the Word to be planted, we can pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all nations and our community.

But then someone will have to go preach the gospel in order to set people free because it's the Word that sets people free.

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That's what the Word says in **John 8:32**, "*And ye shall know the truth (THE TRUTH IS THE WORD), and the truth shall make you free.*"

This is the scriptural way to transform nations and communities. You are not going to be able to deal with the devil in nations or communities any other way than by praying according to God's Word and by sowing the incorruptible seed of God's Word.

That means it's scriptural to ask for the rain – the Holy Spirit – to be poured out upon every nation to cause the seeds of the Word that have been planted in people's heart to grow.

#### **QUESTION:**

1. According to what we just read, what is the scriptural way to change nations and our communities?

#### **POINT 4**

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Another way to pray scripturally to pull souls from the kingdom of darkness is found in:

#### **READ: MATTHEW 9:38**

*"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."* Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into the harvest.

No matter how good the harvest is, if there are no laborers to reap the harvest, the precious fruit of the earth will not be gathered in.

So, we have to keep asking the Lord for the rain of the Holy spirit. Keep preaching the word to people, and keep praying for laborers to be sent forth. Then there will be a harvest of souls that will be brought into the Kingdom of God.

That's how to scripturally change communities and nations and cities, because it's based solidly on God's word,

**READ: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6**, Paul says, "*I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.*"

Getting the Word to prevail in people's lives should be the primary goal of every believer as they pray for the world. If believers would avoid praying in unbiblical ways and begin praying effectively according to the Word of God,

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Satan's strategies in our communities and nation would be thwarted and God's purposes would be fulfilled to a greater measure on this earth.

Praying for revival and an awakening effects change in our cities and nations by pushing back the darkness.

#### **QUESTION:**

1. How else should we pray and why? What will be the results of us praying this way?

#### **POINT 5**

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A great man of God named, Charles Finney, who was a great revivalist gave us insight into how to prepare the way for revival through prayer that is based firmly on the word.

Finney had revivals in city after city. Sometimes almost entire cities would get saved when he came and preached there. That's invading the kingdom of darkness! Finney had the greatest success at soulwinning of anyone since the Apostle Paul.

It's a historical fact that 80% of all Finney's converts remained faithful to God in their Christian walk. In most of the great revivals in history, not even fifty percent of the converts continued to live for the lord.

When asked the secret to his success in the ministry. Finney simply said, the secret is prayer. He said I always get up at four o'clock every morning and I pray from 4:00 to eight o'clock in the morning.

I've had some experiences in prayer that indeed alarmed me, he said I found myself saying, "Lord, you don't think we're not going to have revival here, do you!"

And then I found myself quoting scripture after scripture to the Lord, reminding him of his promises. When you read how Finney prayed for revival, you'll realize Finney was practicing what God instructed us to do in the book of Isaiah.

**READ: ISAIAH 43:26** where the Lord says: "*Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.*"

#### **ISAIAH 43:26 IN THE MESSAGE BIBLE READS:**

*"So, make your case against me. Let's have this out. Make your arguments. Prove you're in the right."*

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You prove that you are right by saying: “Lord you said in your Word.” I’m making my argument with God’s Word.

#### **READ: JEREMIAH 1:11**

*“Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. 12 Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.”*

The Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah and he seen it. When you see it, then God says I will hasten that word to perform it.

#### **THE MESSAGE BIBLE READS: JEREMIAH 1:12**

*And GOD said, "Good eyes! I'm sticking with you. I'll make every word I give you come true."*

But you have to get the Word! You have to **HEAR IT, RECEIVE IT, BELIEVE IT, SPEAK IT** and **ACT ON IT**, which are the five elements of faith.

Finney pled his case with God for revival in the cities where he would be preaching based on the promises in God’s word. He put God in remembrance of what he had said in his Word. He prayed according to the Word for revival – for souls to come into the Kingdom of God. There isn’t one account given that Finney ever pulled down demonic strongholds, prayed against devils, or dealt with ruling spirits over cities, yet, whole towns were won to the Lord where Finney preached.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the secret to Finney’s success in winning souls? What are the five elements of faith?

When Finney arrived in one area and started his meetings there, a lady approached him and said, "About a week ago, Father Nash leased a room from me. After about three days, I wondered why he didn’t come out of his room, so I went up to his door and I could hear Father Nash groaning. She said I thought something was wrong with him, so I opened the door and peeked in. There he was lying in the middle of the floor, groaning and praying." Finney answered, “Don’t worry about Father Nash, sister. Just leave him alone. He just has the burden of intercession to pray for lost souls.”

Father Nash wasn’t pulling down strongholds or fighting demons who were ruling over cities where Finney was going to be preaching.

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He was praying according to **Romans 8:26** where it says:

*“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for **we know not** what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with **groanings** which cannot be uttered.”*

The Holy Spirit helped him pray for lost souls with groanings that could not be uttered in articulate speech. But prayer that is in line with the word of God prepares the ground of people’s hearts so the word can be planted and bear eternal fruit in people’s lives.

That is the scriptural way to change cities and nations – not spending time supposedly warring against spiritual forces ruling over cities and nations that have already been defeated by Jesus.

Thousands of souls were won to the kingdom of God through Finney’s ministry. Finney accomplished that by praying for souls – the precious fruit of the earth – and by preaching the word.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Here we see a man of God groaning in the Spirit. Why do you think men think only women groan in the spirit? What was Father Nash doing?

#### **ALTAR CALL - TIME OF DECISION (EVERYONE BOW YOUR HEADS)**

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#### **PRAISE REPORTS - \*2-MINUTES PER PERSON**

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#### **PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)**

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##### **Prayer focus:**

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family)
- 2) Life Group members
- 3) Word of Faith Leadership:
  - a. Pastor Ronald D. Walker, Jr., Evangelist Sharon L. Walker, Minister Promise Walker, Brittany and Christian and the ministerial staff.
  - b. Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler

**Have you reached out to your circle today?**

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

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1. Young Adults ages 18-35 come on out to Word of Faith on **Friday, May 20, 2022 @7:00PM** for a super fun painting experience! You will get a chance to destress and be Picasso for a night, so get your paint brushes ready! For more information, meet Min. Promise by the stage after service, call the church office at (340)774-8617, or email [promisewalker7@gmail.com](mailto:promisewalker7@gmail.com).
2. In observation of **Memorial Day, Monday, May 23rd** early morning prayer is canceled. Join us Tuesday, May 24th as prayer resumes at 6:00 am.
3. Join **Covenant Partner's, Friday, May 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. for Dinner and a Movie**. Dinner will be at the Meat-up followed by a movie at Caribbean Cinema. For more information contact Minister Lavern Oysterman by email at [wofcovenantpartners@gmail.com](mailto:wofcovenantpartners@gmail.com)
4. Join us for the next SWAT Outing, **Saturday, May 28th at 11am**. SWAT Outings are schedule every 2nd and 4th Saturdays. For more information contact Minister Francis.
5. Join us for Friends and Family Day, **Sunday, May 29th at 10:00 am**. It's our dress down Sunday. To make food donations please see Minister Creque.

#### OFFERING

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- <https://wordoffaithstthomas.com/give-online/>
- <https://www.givelify.com/>

#### CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL

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