



The Priority of Prayer
Discussion Guide | January 5, 2020
Mark 1:32-35

Questions for Study and Discussion

** Before you begin, please read Mark 1:32-35 as a group.

1. As we head into the New Year, what priorities do you want to shape your life moving forward? Why?
2. Look at the larger context in which Mark 1:32-35 sits. From Mark 1:29-39, what priorities of Jesus emerge? Make a list of Jesus' priorities in this passage.
3. Now focus in on Jesus' priority of prayer. From what you've read in Mark 1, how is it evident that Jesus makes prayer a priority in His life?
4. Read the following passages. After each, share how it sheds additional light on the practice of prayer in Jesus' life:
 - Luke 5:16
 - Luke 6:12-16
 - Matthew 14:15-21 (esp. v. 19)
 - John 11:38-44
 - Matthew 26:36-44
5. Why is it significant that Jesus prioritized prayer? What does this mean for your own life, as a follower of Jesus?
6. Why is developing and growing in the habit of prayer important for followers of Jesus? How does prayer form us?
7. Share about your own experience with prayer. Does prayer come naturally for you, or is it more difficult? Why?
8. What practical tips have you found helpful for cultivating your prayer life?
9. Brookside is leaning into prayer in a big way in this current "40 Days" series.
 - How will you participate in this series?
 - What are 1-2 ways you want to grow in prayer?
 - What specific habits will you practice that can help you grow in prayer?
10. **Challenge - Memorize Mark 1:35:** "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."