



PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

DECEMBER 30, 2018

TAKEAWAY:

During Jesus' earthly ministry, He took regular times of private prayer to God the Father. This passage describes Jesus' habit of prayer and its place in His public ministry.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

Followers of Jesus should seek a biblical view of prayer and be moved to become people of prayer by the Spirit's help.

GOSPEL CONNECTION:

Followers of Christ receive His power for daily life by means of prayer.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 If an irreligious person asked you to define prayer, what would you say?
- 2 Do you think prayer is offensive to people in our culture? Why or why not?
- 3 What do you think distinguishes Christian prayer from the prayers of other religions?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read Mark 1:35a.

35a Very early in the morning, while it was still dark

- When did Jesus pray? Is this significant? Why or why not?
- What are the benefits of praying early in the day?

> Read Mark 1:35b.

35b Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place

- Where did Jesus pray? Why do you think He went there?
- Do we need to find our own desolate places to pray? Why or why not?
- Why is it important to have time for uninterrupted prayer?

> Read Mark 1:35c-39.

35c where he prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." 39 So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

- How would you describe prayer? What is important to include in our times of prayer?
- In verses 36–39, we read of Jesus' action that followed this time of prayer. What does this indicate about our need for prayer to precede action?
- Where does this show that Jesus sought His power for action?

APPLICATION

- 1 When do you pray? Is there a better time that you could pray unhindered? Is prayer a priority in your life? Do you make time and sacrifice to engage in it? Why or why not?
- 2 How does a commitment to prayer change our relationships with others?
- 3 How might a commitment to prayer give us greater awareness of opportunities to share the gospel, as well as the power for boldness to share the gospel with others?

THIS WEEK

- Memorize Mark 1:35.
- Read Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6 on Monday.
- Read Galatians 4:4-6 on Tuesday.
- Read Mark 1:1-8 on Wednesday.
- Read Mark 1:9-15 on Thursday.
- Read Mark 1:16-28 on Friday.
- Read Mark 1:29-45 on Saturday.