



Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

Discipleship Series Interactive Worship - Putting First (Prioritising)

Preparation

- Pens and paper.
- Printed copies or projected slides of the three prayer questions and answers in the thought section.

Bible Passage

Mark 6:45–46

Introduction

How do we make decisions about what is most important? What comes first? Every day we have to prioritise situations. When we discover what is really important everything else can be put into place.

Ask the participants to think about situations when they had to choose what to do first.

Thought

Imagine you were Jesus. You can heal the sick, make the blind see and even raise people from the dead. How amazing would that be? However in Mark's Gospel we are told that Jesus dismissed the crowd, and went away on a hillside to pray (Mark 6:45-46). What about all those people who could have been healed in that time? All those people who would have gone away disappointed not to have had their time with Jesus? It may seem strange to us that he did this, however it points to something very important that we, as Christians, often forget.

Jesus prioritised. He knew that, if he was to have the power to minister then, he needed time with his heavenly Father. However pressing the public demands were, his individual space with his father was paramount.

Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation, famously said: 'I have so much to do today that I'm going to need to spend three hours in prayer in order to be able to get it all done.' Martin Luther had found that prayer was the priority.

So why is it so important to pray? Print out the following three answers to this question with their respective Bible verses or project them onto a screen and ask people to discuss times in which they have proved that God listens to our prayers, that they work and how/when others have depended on them:

- Firstly, because God listens: 'And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him' (1 John 5:15).





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- Secondly, because it **works**. ‘The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.’ (James 5:16, *NIV*).
- Thirdly because **others depend** upon it: ‘And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective’ (James 5:15-16).

In his devotional book *Discovering God*, Max Lucado writes: ‘Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.’

Participation

On a piece of paper ask people to draw a circle dividing it in ‘slices’ (like a pie chart) with each ‘slice’ representing how many minutes they give to their daily activities. Some people may want to draw their activities or write them down. Help them to reflect on how much of their time is spent ‘putting God first’ and what are some ‘priorities’ that may need to change for this to happen.

Worship

- SB 601 Lord I come to you
- SB 795 What a friend we have
- SB 345 To be in your presence

Response

Make sure you leave plenty of time for prayer!

- Get each member of the corps to write a prayer of commitment to make time (or even more time) to be with Jesus in prayer and through his word.

