

“Pickaxe Prayers”

(Prayer Rocks #3)

Matthew 7:7-11 (NRSVue)



7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for bread, would give a stone? 10 Or if the child asked for a fish, would give a snake? 11 If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE)
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Reflection on the Word:

1. Reflect on a time you prayed and God answered. Did it happen right away? Was it what you were expecting?
2. Do you find it easy to trust that God is listening to you? What about when it feels like God doesn't care?
3. How do our own frustrations and need for control get in the way of us seeking God?
4. Who are the people in your life who help you persevere in prayer, trust in God, and notice the ways God is moving in your life?

Family Time or Small Group Discussion:

1. Do you find it easy to pray the same prayer over and over?
2. How can we encourage each other to trust that God is working for our good?
3. Can we be honest with God about our frustrations and pray through them?
4. How can we pray for each other and our church this week?

Sermon Series Resources:

Kibbey, Sue Nilson (2019). *Ultimate Reliance: Breakthrough Prayer Practices for Leaders*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.

Kibbey, Sue Nilson (2016). *Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.

Picardo, Picardo, Kibbey, Sue Nilson (2022). *Dynamite Prayer: A 28 Day Experiment*. Nashville: Invite Press.

Sermon Series Introduction:

We are kicking off a new ministry year building on the foundation of Oak Grove's fruitful history of prayer with a new sermon series and a new challenge. Our sermon series will focus on prayer and possibilities and is titled: Prayer Rocks! Our new challenge is based on the book *Dynamite Prayer: A 28 Day Experiment* by Rosario Picardo & Sue Nilson Kibbey. My hope and prayer are that both our collective and individual prayer lives are reignited through Oak Grove's Dynamite Prayer Challenge leading us to a rock that is higher than I (Psalm 61:2).

Ways to participate in Oak Groves Dynamite Prayer Challenge:

1. Join Oak Grove UMC's Prayer Team. Our prayer team receives prayer requests from people throughout the week via the prayer@oakgroveumc.org email, prayer request cards, and verbal requests made directly to pastor Amanda, pastor Britney, and the church office. Prayer requests are sent to the prayer team from our Office Manager, Julie or Anita Carity the coordinator for the prayer team. If you would like to join the prayer team please contact Anita Carity via email at anitalcarty@gmail.com or call Julie in the church office at 757-547- 2319.
2. Follow the prayer prompts on Oak Grove's website and in the weekly sermon notes for the Prayer Rocks sermon series.
3. Help write a new breakthrough prayer for Oak Grove. This will be a prayer that addresses the challenges we are facing today. This is a short-term commitment of working with Pastor Amanda and a group to write and roll out Oak Grove's new breakthrough prayer to the congregation. Contact Pastor Amanda at pastoramanda@oakgroveumc.org or via text at 703-608-6444.
4. Purchase the book and follow along on Oak Grove's Facebook Book Page. If the cost of the book prevents you from participating, please take a book and pay what you can afford, leave a note in the envelope so we can account for the books it is fine to do this anonymously or to share your name.
5. Leave a prayer of Thanksgiving or a Prayer Concern on the prayer wall in the narthex of the historic sanctuary or in The Grove in the main building.
6. Pray over the prayers on Oak Grove's prayer walls (see #5)

A Note About the Prayer Walls...



Oak Grove's worship and arts team has been busy designing and installing prayer walls inspired by the Western Wall in Israel. The prayer walls will be in The Grove and in the narthex of the historic sanctuary and will remain up through the program year. The walls were designed for prayers to be written and placed in the cracks of the wall similar to the Western Wall.

Pastor Amanda will be leading a trip to Israel in February 2024 which will include visiting the Western Wall. The trip is open to everyone, if you would like more information, please contact Pastor Amanda or

pick up a brochure in The Grove or the narthex of the historic sanctuary.