

Message Notes

Lifting Our Voices in One Accord

Acts 4:23-33
Week of Prayer 2006
January 8, 2006

3 Ways to Participate in the 2005 Grace Week of Prayer

1. Plan to attend one or more of the planned 45 minute prayer sessions in the Lower Fireside Room. Circle the session/s you plan to attend:

M 6:30 AM T 6:30 AM W 6:30 AM TH 6:30 AM
M 12:00 PM T 12:00 PM W 12:00 PM TH 12:00 PM

2. Designate a personal daily time for focused prayer using the Week of Prayer Guide.

I will pray every day this week at this time: _____

3. Designate one or more times of prayer for your family in your home this week. Use the prayer guide in your family prayer time.

Our family will gather to pray at/on: _____

grace
San Luis Obispo

Message Outline

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Acts 4:23-33
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I. The FUEL of the Early Church's Prayers (4:24-28)

- A. They knew who GOD IS.
 1. God of Creation: "You MADE. . . ." (4:24)
 2. God of Revelation: "You SPOKE. . . ." (4:25)
 3. God of History: "You DECIDED" (4:28)
- B. They knew who THEY WERE. . . . *God's bondservants* (4:29)

II. The FOCUS of the Early Church's Prayers (4:29-30)

- A. They prayed not "relieve our circumstances", but "give us confidence to speak your Word in our circumstances."
- B. They prayed not for "miracles of vengeance," but for "miracles of mercy."

III. The FRUIT of the Early Church's Prayers (4:31-33)

- A. **Shaking:** They had a sense of God's PRESENCE.
- B. **Filling:** They had an experience of God's POWER.
- C. **Speaking:** They continued God's PROCLAMATION.
- D. **Sharing:** They became generous with their POSSESSIONS.

And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul. . . (Acts 4:32)

And abundant grace was upon them all. (Acts 4:33b)

2006 Week of Prayer Guide

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As we embark on a new year together, we want to follow the pattern of the early church and "lift up our voices in one accord." This guide is intended to assist you as you admit your dependence on the Lord and call upon His name. We hope you will use it in personal and family devotions, that it will stir your heart, stimulate your mind and draw you to your knees.

Monday: Read James 4:6-10 and Pray for Yourself

Confess your sins to the Lord. Take an inventory of your life this last year and give thanks for the Lord's blessing in your life. Lay your unfulfilled dreams and goals at his feet. Look ahead to the new year and commit your ways and goals to Him.

Specific Requests Today:

Tuesday: Read Colossians 3:12-21 and Pray for Your Family

Pray that you might, by God's grace and strength, be the husband/wife/father/mother/son/daughter/brother/sister that the Lord calls you to be. Ask for the Lord you to help you in fulfilling these roles. Pray for the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of your spouse, children and extended family. Pray that God would protect, prosper and use your family for His kingdom and glory.

Specific Requests Today:

Wednesday: Read Ephesians 4:1-16 and Pray for Our Church

Pray for elders, trustees, pastors, ministry and administrative staff and other leadership. Pray for their spiritual protection, their balance, their families, their fruitfulness, their integrity and their walk with God. Use the back of the *Life @ Grace* to pray by name. Pray for the variety of ministries here at Grace as we strive and sacrifice to fulfill our vision together. Pray for your role and part at Grace in 2006. Pray that God would provide for, protect and prosper Grace for His name's sake.

Specific Requests Today:

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Thursday: Read Acts 4:23-33 and Pray for Our Community

Pray that we would be "a church in the community, serving the community." Pray for the poor and disadvantaged in our community. Pray for college students and singles, business and community leaders, families, and seniors in our community. Pray for the penetration and spread of the Gospel in our community through Gospel-preaching churches. Pray that we together "might speak His Word with all confidence" to our friends, neighbors and co-workers. (Acts 4:29)

Specific Requests Today:

Friday: Read 1 Timothy 2:1-6 and Pray for Our Country

Pray for those who are still recovering from hurricanes and other natural disasters. Pray that government leaders at all levels would come to know Christ and would rule wisely. Pray for our service men and women serving around the world. Pray for the poor and disadvantaged throughout the country. Pray for the national spread of the Gospel.

Specific Requests Today:

Saturday: Read Psalm 146 and Pray for Our World

Pray for the rule and reign of God to be recognized and extended worldwide through the spread of the Gospel. Reflect on God's universal sovereignty. Pray for our Grace missionaries around the world. Pray for those recovering from natural disasters. Pray for the poor and disadvantaged. Pray for the aids crises in Africa. Pray for world peace and freedom.

Specific Requests Today:

Growth Groups

Growth Groups begin meeting on January 15th. Sign-up TODAY. Stop by the Growth Group table in the Courtyard to find a group in your area.