

RAISE THE MARK

AUGUST 2007

Welcome to Raise the Mark.
Please introduce yourself to those you
will be praying with and briefly share
something you would like to pray about
with them in your time together.

REFLECTION & PRAISE

There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.

The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry hunger no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away.

The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the Lord's upon them he has set the world. He will guard the feet of his saints, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness. It is not by strength that one prevails. **1 SAMUEL 2:2-9**

But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.

1 SAMUEL 12:24

- Praise God for His Sovereignty.
- Praise God specifically for the great things He has done for you.
- Praise God for the ways He is using adversity in your life to grow you.
- Praise God for the ways He is using you to draw others to Him.
- Praise God for the ways He has provided for us as a body.
- Please thank the Lord for the provision of our new worship facility.

EXAMINING OUR HEARTS

But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

1 SAMUEL 15:22

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." **1 SAMUEL 16:7**

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

PSALM 51:15-17

- Acknowledge any ways you are not walking with Christ.
- Acknowledge and confess ways you are allowing busyness to rule and distract you.
- Confess any pride or people pleasing He is exposing in you.
- Acknowledge and confess any sin you are justifying.

GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

PSALM 51:1-10

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. **ROMANS 5:17-19**

PRAYING FOR YOU AND OTHERS

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

- Pray for compassion, wisdom, and sensitivity to the people God puts in your midst that don't know Him. (Pray specifically and by name.)
- Pray for our youth going back to school that they would be drawn to Christ and deepening in their passion to pursue Him and be used by Him.
- Pray for the men and women serving us in the military all over the world and specifically that they are encouraged, strengthened and drawn to Christ through the letters our body sent.
- Pray that we would be faithful and joyful in how we steward the resources God has entrusted to us.
- Pray for specific ways God will use our new building to accomplish His purposes through us.
- Pray for those in your group and in our body with needs you are aware of (marriages, jobs, health, family, etc.).

DECLARATION & CELEBRATION

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

JAMES 1:2-4

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. **ROMANS 5:3-5**

- Share and celebrate specific ways Christ is working in and through your life.
- Share specific ways you are struggling or experiencing victory.