Icebreaker:
As a child, did you learn any prayers that were said at bedtime or mealtime such as, “Now I lay me down to sleep...” or “God is great and God is good...” If so, what did those prayers mean to you?

Message Overview:
Over the last several weeks in this series on prayer, we have learned that we are spiritual beings as well as physical beings, and that, according to Ephesians 6:12, our struggle is not against flesh and blood (the physical), but against...the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (the spiritual). 1 Peter 5:8 tells us to be alert and of sober mind, [for our] enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Not to despair, however, for while Satan comes only to steal and kill and destroy; JESUS has come that [we] may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10). We need not fear the unseen, because greater is he that is in [us], than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4). We are in a battle for our souls, though, and the ongoing prayer throughout this series has been that God would open our eyes to this reality, to the unseen.

In today’s message by Pastor Kevin Queen, (KQ) picks up where we left off in Ephesians 6. We’ve learned thus far that Satan targets the mind, the heart, and the will and that God provides “armor” for thwarting his efforts. Today we learned in verses 18-20 the value of extraordinary prayer, for prayer IS the battle, not just the preparation for the battle. What is extraordinary prayer? Prayer
- at all times
- of all kinds
- for others
- as a cry for courage

Discussion:
(Leaders: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion on this week’s primary Message points. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. And remember, as leader, your goal is to promote increased biblical awareness, as well as individual self awareness – a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and...transformation!)
What has been your experience with prayer? [share thoughts] Read the following verses and discuss how these verses challenge your understanding of prayer: Ephesians 6:18-20, Hebrews 4:16, I Thessalonians 5:16-18, Philippians 4:4-7, Psalm 3:3-5
Here are some statements about prayer. In light of today’s message, are they true or false? Why or why not?

- Anybody can pray anytime, anywhere
- The power of a prayer is in how it’s worded
- Prayer is how the physical engages the spiritual
- Prayer is the battle, not the preparation for the battle
- God will do what he wants whether we pray or not
- There are only two kinds of prayers—confession and supplication
- Prayer is about getting God to move on our behalf

1 Peter 5:8 tells us to **be alert and of sober mind, [for our] enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** What is your perception, or understanding, of Satan? [discuss] What truth can we learn about Satan in the following verses? [read and discuss] Job 1:6-12, 1 John 4:4, Matthew 28:16-19, Luke 4:1-13, James 4:7, Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10

KQ made the statement that **no person is greater than his prayer life.** What did he mean by that? [discuss] If prayer is the battle, the tipping point in warfare against the unseen, would you consider yourself to be a mighty warrior in the battle? Why or why not?

KQ asked this question at the close of the service: **What would this next year look like if, together, we began to pray extraordinary prayer…if we prayed at all times with all kinds of prayers, for others, and for courage to share our faith?** We can imagine how the hand of God would move in our families, our church, and our communities. The real question is whether or not you are “all in” and if not, what is holding you back? [discuss]

**Wrap-Up/Close:**
What is one truth or insight about this message that stands out to you the most? [discuss] Close in prayer, thanking God for these new insights learned this week and for greater opportunities to engage in praying for others and for consistency in becoming prayer warriors.

**Throughout the Week: (Optional)**
(Leaders: Share these optional exercises for further study and growth with your group.)

Memorize Psalm 100: 1-5, “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”
Throughout this week, try writing down a few things every day that you are thankful for. Reflect on those things and thank God for His blessings in your life.

Appendix (Optional)

One Thousand Gifts by Ann VosKamp ~ one woman’s journey into living the abundant life

Jesus offers by engaging in prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving moment by moment