

“The Priority of Prayer” | 10.29.17
Mark 1:35-39
Sermon Discussion Questions

1. This week Pastor Jim started his message by talking about social media, technology and other such things. As a way to start your conversation today try this: have everyone pull out their phone if they have one and look through their apps. Take a moment to discuss which ones you use the most and why? How much time would you guys you spend on it a day, a week?
2. Pastor Jim highlighted the growing concern that technology presents to us today. Tat it not only has the potential to addict its users but it is also contributing towards “continuously partial attention.” The concern is that as a society we are always distracted. Do you agree with this concern? Why or why not? How have you seen these concerns play out in your own life?
3. The Scripture for this week is Mark 1:35-39, but to get a sense of what is happening Pastor Jim started in verse 32. Re-read the passage and discuss, what did Pastor Jim highlight about Jesus’ ministry that parallels our issue with social media today?
4. These verses show three things Jesus did to combat the pull of society on him and his time. The first 2 were: get up early and went to a solitary place. Why did he do this? What was the big deal about it being early and about finding a solitary place? Spend some time discussing what Pastor Jim said as well as your own thoughts on the subject.
5. Of the three things Jesus did, the most important of them was that he prayed. In Jesus’ case, it wasn’t a short prayer time, but a long and significant amount of time. Why was this? What was the result of him praying early, away from the crowd and for an extended time?
6. Jesus had a purpose and mission and it was not to stay at Capernaum with people lined up at the door needing him to do something. The same is true for us. Social media can serve as a distraction, it can drown out the voice of God as He calls us to our purpose. Take a moment and be honest, what keeps you from spending more time in prayer and less time on the computer, on the phone or other technology?
7. God has put you on this earth for a reason. As you close today, reflect on some of the Scripture that was shared about Jesus’ prayer times and encourage each other to carry out the assignment Pastor Jim called us to. Commit to it and see what God will do.
 - Luke 5:16
 - Matthew 6:6