

CALL to PRAYER -

Pray about the war going on in Israel. Ps. 122:6

- Announcement Upcoming series in Ephesians starting in November.
 - Study guides will be available after church for those who ordered them.
 - Best study guide is the Bible - Read Ephesians every day.

Intro - Topical messages until we start Ephesians. Going to try a different style message today. Topical with the focus on being very practical. Today I want to address “*getting ready for church*.” I think that we generally give greater thought to preparing to go to other places than to church. We plan out our workday/school/doctor/shopping ^{hungry/list}...but we often fail to prepare ourselves for corporate worship on the first day of the week. 6 P’s to ponder before we come to church.

Psalm 122:1 - Getting Ready for Church

- Psalm 122 is part of the “Songs of Ascents” (120-134)
 - These are the songs the people of God sang on the way up to Jerusalem as they ascended to Temple Mount on the weekly Sabbath or the required feast days.
 - Songs/prayers on the way to church. Practice/Pregame warmup/stretching

PLAN

- PLAN to attend. (even in OT there were regularly scheduled meetings they planned to attend)
 - Since the pandemic many got out of the habit of attending church.
 - Church deemed most dangerous place on earth (Walmart is safe/church is risky)
 - Put church on your calendar as a necessary weekly appointment.
 - Make church attendance a non-negotiable priority. Plan to attend.
- Encourage others to attend.
 - Ps. 122:1 Hebrews 10:24-25

PREPARE

- ❖ PREPARE yourself and your family.
 - Read the Sunday School lesson and the scripture for the sermon.
 - Prepare your mind. Mark 12:30
- ❖ Preparation by eager anticipation and enthusiasm.
 - Psalm 122:1 Ps. 84:1-2 Psalm 42:1-2
 - Eeyore or Tigger in your anticipation? Sunday is the best day of the week!

PURE

- Psalm 29:2 “*worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*” NKJV
 - More attention given to outward adornment than to being arrayed in holiness.
 - “*Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts...*” 1 Peter 1:16
- Matt. 5:23-24 Do families ever have big fights on the way to church?

- Ezekiel 23:39

PRA***Y***

- Matt. 21:13

PARTICIPATE

- ❖ Corporate worship

PONDER

- Luke 8:18a *“Be careful how you listen...”*

(do you mean them...believe them?)

- *"I surrender some..."*

- Can you give your “amen” to the prayers?

- I can't pray when others pray aloud, but I can listen and say "yes Lord..."

- 1 Thess. 5:21 Test all things.

- Filter everything through God's Word

- Test the preacher.

- Acts 17:10-11

- Test it and apply it to your life.

- The things we engage in during corporate worship are to move us to action.

- Not just information but motivation to action

- Repentance is a lifelong event.

- Ask yourself, in light of the church service.....

- Is there something I should stop doing?

- Is there something I should start doing?

- Turn conviction into action