CALL to PRAYER -

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

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

<u>Intro</u> - 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)
 - o These are the songs the people of God sang on the way <u>up</u> 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

Psalm 42:1-2

PLAN

- ➤ PLAN to attend. (even in OT there were regularly scheduled meetings they planned to attend)
 - o 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)
 - o Put church on your calendar as a necessary weekly appointment.
 - Make church attendance a non-negotiable priority.
 Plan to attend.
- ➤ Encourage others to attend.
 - o Ps. 122:1

Hebrews 10:24-25

PREPARE

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

PURE

- Psalm 29:2 "worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." NKJV
 - o More attention given to outward adornment that to being arrayed in holiness.
 - o "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?

• Jer. 7:9-11 Ezekiel 23:39

o Church is not a place to cloak our sin but repent & confess & be cleansed of sin.

PRAY

➤ House of prayer Matt. 21:13

- o Pray for yourself and others.
 - Phil. 1:9-11 Col. 1:9-12
 - Pray that: 1] Love may abound
 2]filled with spiritual wisdom 3] walk worthy of calling
- Pray for your pastor.
 - o Eph. 6:19-20
 - o Gal. 1:10 I like to be liked but pray that I wouldn't be a man pleaser.
 - Pray that I would have:
 Boldness,
 2]clarity of speech
 3] fear God not men

PARTICIPATE

- Corporate worship
 - We come to church to participate together...not just be casual observers.
 - Sing...pray...fellowship....encourage each other in the faith....give
 - Ps. 96:8-9

1 Cor. 16:2

o Ps. 84:10

greeter/doorkeeper

- **❖** Be like Mike
 - o Mike is eager to be involved. (Mike the mic man)
 - o Use your gift. We need each other and for you to use your giftedness.

PONDER

- Luke 8:18a "Be carful how you listen..."
 - O Pay attention to the words of the songs (do you mean them...believe them?)
 - "I surrender some..."
 - o 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
 - o Test the preacher.
 - Acts 17:10-11
- Test it and apply it to your life.
 - o 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.
 - o Ask yourself, in light of the church service.......
 - Is there something I should stop doing?
 - Is there something I should start doing?
 - o Turn conviction into action