

**Prayer Series:  
What the World Needs Now Is Prayer**

April 6  
Prayer: Our Most Important Work

April 13  
Reporting for Work

April 20  
A Job Worth Doing Is Worth Doing Well

April 27  
Measuring Our Outcomes

Series Strategies:

**Develop a “Kingdom of God Employee Handbook”**

Content = The Sermon on the Mount

Intro to series theme – in an earlier time **cottage industry** was a way for manufacturers to farm out piece work for workers to do at home. Their product was collected by the factory or business for completion of a product and distribution to the world. We want to develop a series of small groups during this series on prayer and think of them as cottage industry groups that do the work of prayer at home and in small groups. We want to outsource the work of the Kingdom to these groups to pray for the business of the Kingdom of God. We'll gather on Sundays for inspiration, sharing our prayer experiences, and receiving fresh assignments for the week to come.

For background on cottage industry see:

<https://www.historycrunch.com/cottage-industry-vs-factory-system.html#/>

The cottage industry preceded the Industrial Revolution which built factories capable of doing the work of the cottage industry faster and more efficiently. This development may parallel today's move from smaller churches to mega churches, but the best mega churches have realized that a “cottage industry” of small home-based groups is still essential for the health of the church and the vitality of its fellowship and outreach. It does not stretch the imagination to say that Wesley's Methodist Class Meetings were a form of spiritual cottage industry that were linked to the greater work of Methodists that transformed England and America spiritually as surely as the Industrial Revolution did economically.

## **WORK OF CHURCH=SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

Kingdom Work is Described in Sermon on the Mount and Jesus describes the outcomes of the Kingdom. The subject of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount can be outlined this way:

### **The Beatitudes = (Christian Character)**

#### **Salt and Light (Evangelism/Salvation)**

Church/Ministries of the church

Cultural trendsetters

Education/Schools/Teachers/Leaders

#### **The Fulfillment of the Law**

Business/Industry Leaders

Law enforcement

#### **Interpersonal Relationships**

Murder/Anger

Law enforcement

#### **Adultery/Divorce**

Families

Women's rights/protection/potential

#### **Oaths/Vows**

#### **An Eye for an Eye/Revenge**

Victims of violence

#### **Love for Enemies**

Law enforcement

Military personnel

Racism

#### **Giving to the Needy (Ministries of Mercy and Compassion)**

Healing

The poor/homeless

Disenfranchised people

Suffering People

The incarcerated

Medical personnel

#### **Prayer**

Intercession

Nation and national leaders

Kids/Youth

**Fasting**

**Treasures in Heaven/Money and Possessions**

Creation

**Do Not Worry**

Peace

**Judging Others/Don't Condemn Others**

Law enforcement

Military personnel

**Ask, Seek and Knock/Effective Prayer**

**Golden Rule**

Peace

Business/Industry Leaders

Families

Tolerance/Generosity/Grace

**The Narrow Gate**

Media/Entertainment Industry/the Arts

**A Tree and Its Fruit**

**True Disciples**

**The Wise and Foolish Builders/Building on A Solid Foundation**

Church

The above elements of the Sermon on the Mount cover the following categories:

**Evangelism (Salt and Light)**

**Financial/Economics**

**Government/Military**

**Leaders**

**Church**

**Relationships**

## **Ministries of Mercy and Compassion**

## **Ministries of Justice**

### **A Classic Outline for Prayer:**

- Praise
- Adoration
- Confession
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication

### **Cottage Prayer Groups Praying for:**

#### **The Church and Its Ministries**

- Salt and Light
- Evangelism
- Building a Strong Foundation
- Global Missions

#### **The Needy/Sick/Hungry**

#### **Families**

#### **Stewardship of Creation**

#### **Leaders**

- Cultural Trendsetters/Influencers/Media
- Government
- Military
- Education
- Business

#### **Money and Possessions**

#### **Relationships**

- Race
- Gender
- Anger/Murder/Revenge
- Adultery/Divorce

### **Some other things we pray about:**

Healing  
Intercession  
Nation and national leaders  
Church  
Kids/Youth  
Victims of violence  
Creation  
Peace  
Media/Entertainment Industry/the Arts  
Cultural trendsetters  
Education/Schools/Teachers/Leaders  
Business/Industry Leaders  
Families  
Ministries of the church  
The poor/homeless  
The incarcerated  
Disenfranchised people  
Suffering People  
Law enforcement  
Military personnel  
Medical personnel  
Women's rights/protection/potential  
Racism  
Tolerance/Generosity/Grace  
Thanksgiving  
Praise

### **Resources:**

Highlight current news articles that point to situations we can pray for

How can we take who we are in Christ and the faith he gives us and give it to the world through prayer?

Illustrate the exponential impact of group prayer: one can put a thousand to flight, two can put 10,000 to flight.

The story of Bob as told by John Ortberg in *If You Want to Walk on Water You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*

The Little Man on George Street story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CQ9amtIOTY>

## **Week 1**

Intro the concept of Cottage Prayer Meetings and prayer being our central work for the Kingdom of God. Have people commit to praying for a specific focus from our list.

## **Week 2**

Commissioning of Grace Prayer Team

Don's story re: catacomb service, first prayer.

In small groups:

Write a prayer that communicates your concern for the prayer focus of your cottage prayer group

Pray it silently

Join hands, The Lord's Prayer

Bring prayer offering to Communion Table on way back to main seat

Lay leaders of next week's groups offer prayers related to a few of the Kingdom foci

## **Week 3**

Music

Instructions

Leader led groups

Brief Bible study on a portion of the Sermon on the Mount (5 minutes)

News article relevant to prayer focus as illustration of how to pray for kingdom work as it relates to the world in which we live. (1 minute)

Pray for focus – signal time to pray with quiet music (flute, string, piano or acoustical guitar)

Signal time to conclude with soft re-gathering music/singing

The Little Man on George Street story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CQ9amtIOTY>

Concluding song praising God for his faithfulness or one that connects our praying with God's faithfulness.

Let the Spirit hover

Close with: How Great Is Our God

## Week 4

Heaven Get Ready: the harvest is coming

I will pray for: sign up for one or more of the seven prayer focus areas.

Prayer Report Card

As a result of my/our prayers (describe your experience):

Sign name.

Watch for potential testimonies in worship.

Encourage prayer reports  
“ groups to gather for prayer  
“ people to come to pray for church/pastors/worship prior to start of each  
service  
“ sprouting up of a lot of little cottage prayer groups

Work of the Church = Work for the Kingdom

Prayer is central to the work of the Kingdom

We want to pray about these outcomes