



# Prayer Guide Week of 4/25

## COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE

This week Pastor Gaston preached a powerful word on trusting in the promises of God above our circumstances. One of the ways we put our faith in the promises of God is by praying them back to Him. That is what this Group Guide will help us do. First we will look at a story in the book of Isaiah that shows the power of prayer. After being encouraged by this we will pray the promises of God back to Him in Psalm 56.

### **Read Isaiah 37:14-20; 33-38**

This story is a situation where Israel has no hope except God. The nation of Assyria has been conquering the known world and now they have surrounded the city of Jerusalem. Israel has no chance at victory except to cry out to God in prayer. Hezekiah asks the Lord for His deliverance and as a result of his prayers God intervenes and wipes out the Assyrian army. This should be an incredible encouragement in the power of prayer. Prayer is not only powerful in the Old Testament times but it is still just as powerful today in our lives and circumstances. With this in mind, let's pray through Psalm 56.

Praying through the Scriptures is a process. Here is three steps you can use:

- Read God's Word
- Let the Holy Spirit minister to your heart
- Then pray in response to God





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### Turn to Psalm 56

*Leader note: You guys know your groups the best. Some groups might work best staying together and others might need to break up into smaller groups. Your call.*

Each person in your group will take turns reading a verse aloud and then praying while using the verse as a guide. Each person will get to pray multiple times so there is no time commitment to how short or how long you need to pray. As you read through the passage, let the truth of God's Word weigh on your heart and then pray in response to His Word. Remember that Christ has set us free from sin and death! Read and pray through this Psalm in light of the redemption that is in Christ!

*Example:*

*Read Psalm 56:1: "Be gracious to me oh God, for man tramples on me..."*

*Pray: "God I know that persecution is a part of following you, but I thank you that you have brought victory through Christ Jesus. Let me rest in your grace in the midst of pain."*

*Read Psalm 56:3: "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."*

*Pray: "God, thank you that you are a good Father that I can put my trust in. Lord let me always look to you in the midst of my trials."*

In closing,

- Pray for God to continue to show grace to Mercy Church.
- Pray for God to continue to search our hearts through the James series.
- Pray for the Gospel to go forth from the people of Mercy Church into the world.

