



Week 5:

The Hunt for Red October
John 15:5-16

OPEN

This is the fifth week in our series called “Unfit.” In this series, we are looking at how God continues to invite unlikely, undeserving, and UNFIT people to play a part in what He is doing in this world. **As you trace God’s story throughout the Scriptures, you meet a long list of broken and imperfect people whom God includes in His perfect plan.** God could have told His story in any way but chose broken people who he redeemed to share His message of redemption to the world. This week we are going to learn about the importance of participating in God’s mission through the practice of prayer. God has seen fit to tie the success of every dimension of His mission on earth to the prayers of ordinary Christ-followers. This means that every layperson is indispensable in the kingdom.

READ

- **Read John 15:5-16**

- What stands out to you in this passage? Why?
- How does Jesus use the image of a vine and its branches to teach about the necessity for us to be connected to him? What is the result of a life connected to the vine?
- In John 15.6 Jesus said to his disciples “apart from me you can do nothing”
 - Have you ever tried to serve Jesus in your own strength? What was the result?
 - Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit empower you to share Jesus with a level of clarity, boldness, accuracy, or impact that was beyond you? How did that strengthen your faith?

REFLECT

“ **PRAYER IS A WAR-TIME WALKIE-TALKIE, NOT A DOMESTIC INTERCOM FOR RINGING UP THE BUTLER TO CHANGE THE THERMOSTAT. IT IS A WAR-TIME WALKIE-TALKIE TO CALL IN FIREPOWER BECAUSE THE ENEMY IS GREATER THAN WE ARE. IF YOU TRY TO TURN THIS INTO A DOMESTIC INTERCOM TO BRING ANOTHER PILLOW, IT MALFUNCTIONS, AND YOU WONDER WHY. ITS NOT MADE TO BE AN INTERCOM. ITS MADE TO BE A WAR-TIME WALKIE-TALKIE.”**

– JOHN PIPER

- What do you think about this quote from John Piper about prayer?
 - When have you treated prayer more like a hotel room service phone for comforts instead of a wartime walkie talkie?
 - Share a time when you clung to prayer like a wartime walkie talkie, where you were desperate for Jesus to come through. How did your faith growth through that?
- This weeks sermon discussed how, **“God has seen fit to tie the success of every dimension of His mission on earth to the prayers of ordinary Christ-followers”**
 - How does John 15:7 show the importance of prayer for in releasing God’s plans in the world?

If time allows also examine these other passages on the role of prayer in participating in God’s purposes in the world: **1 John 5:14-15; Matthew 6:5-10; Mark 11:24**

“ **IN PRAYER, REAL PRAYER, WE BEGIN TO THINK GOD’S THOUGHTS AFTER HIM: TO DESIRE THE THINGS HE DESIRES, TO LOVE THE THINGS HE LOVES, TO WILL THE THINGS HE WILLS.”**

– RICHARD FOSTER

- Discuss this quote. How would you pray differently if you began pursuing God’s will more in your prayers? What would change?

PRAY

- What is one thing you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to pray more for? Pray for that as a group.
- Please continue to pray for the Board of Elders, Staff, and leaders as we discern the the Holy Spirit’s leading during this time of transition.

