



## ***Deepening Our Intimacy with God***

**March 20, 2022**

*Romans 8:26-28*

### **Connect**

- Prayer is one of those things that can be, at times, plain and simple and other times uncomfortable and complex. What is your experience with prayer? When has it seemingly “worked” or “not worked”? Discuss why even such a notion of *working*, or *not*, is a loaded idea.

### **Engage**

- Read ***Romans 8:26-28***. This passage holds some very familiar words. Believers have held onto these promises for years. In what ways does this bring hope? Is there any part of this that discourages your spirit? If so, why?
- What is the purpose of prayer? Do you feel some prayers are unanswered?
- Part of prayer is considering the location of God. Is God only in the heavens? Is God present within our hearts? What impact, if any, does the location of God have on our prayer lives?
- Is prayer more about the words or the spirit of the pray-er? Why? Have you ever employed the “*sigh too deep for words*” as ‘*prayer enough*’? Discuss.
- What does it mean to “*pray without ceasing*”?
- What if prayer was less a “fix-it” list for God and an invitation to keep good company with God and others trusting for the same hopes? How might this shift your understanding of prayer.
- When Paul writes, “*All things work together for good for those who love the Lord,*” what does he mean? How do we determine what ‘good’ is?

### **Next Steps**

- How might prayer be more than a practice and more a way of life? Consider connecting prayer with another routine, daily activity as a way of integrating communion with God at times apart from your usual times of prayer.

### **Pray**

*“O Lord, if even there were no words to be prayed, you would know every contemplation of our hearts. Thank you for knowing us so and holding with us the joys, pains and everything in between. Amen.”*