

THE CIRCLE MAKER

By Mark Batterson

Lesson 5: Chapters 12-13

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Short vs. Long Distance

- Short races are exciting but, distance races give you time to see God work along the way. Be prepared to go the distance!
- Pray with anticipation and expectancy. (*Psalm 5:3*)
- Exploit your prayer deficits in order that they become your strengths.
- Praying through can be long and boring however, it's a small price to pay for miracles.

Persistence & Self-Control

- Pray that God not only answers the prayer but that He also changes the PrayEE in the process.
- Press pray everyday.
- Pray with urgency about the things that are not urgent.
- Don't be lulled into a false sense of entitlement.

Focus on the Finisher

- Jesus Christ was, is, and is to come the greatest example of finishing well. (*Hebrews 12:2*)
- Make your petitions known to God by any means necessary.
- Pray like your life and lives around you depend on it.

Key Thought: “Pray, Pray, Pray and then Pray AGAIN!”

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Psalm 5:3.** What was David anticipating or expecting and why?
2. **NOTE: Transparency works best here...** What distractions are currently in your life that get between you and God (aka your prayer life)? Provide the group a way you plan to rid your life of these prayer road blocks.
3. **Read 1 Timothy 2:1.** What does this reveal about the who, how, and what we are to pray for?
4. Share with the group what area of your greatest prayer need. As a group spend time praying for each other. Break into smaller groups if need be.