



Dangerous Prayers

Yet not my will, but yours be done - Luke 22:42

THE MCBC
INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Comment, questions, feedback, concerns:
pastorken@mcbccanada.com

Written by: Kenneth Foo
(adapted from: Craig Groeschel)

Copyright © Jan 2021

The MCBC
5220 Creebank Rd., Mississauga, ON, L4W
1X1

www.themcbc.ca

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

Dangerous Prayers

Let's be open and honest for a minute. If you're like me you probably struggle to pray consistently. You have every good intention to pray more or to pray more consistently but you struggle with distraction and the monotony of it. Then you hear someone else pray and you feel almost guilty and a little jealous because it seems they have it together and you don't. Sometimes you wonder if there is a magic formula to prayer and that if you say things the right way, somehow God will answer your prayers or you will feel more closely connected to God. Other times our prayers lives are shallow because we are too tired, too worn out and we simply become indifferent to the power of prayer and we even doubt its effectiveness.

So if you're in a prayer rut, praying the repetitive prayer, praying the predictable prayer, and praying the safe prayer, perhaps the scriptures can prompt us and remind us that God can, "do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Eph 3:20).

So, why is this series called "Dangerous Prayers"? It is an invitation for us to stop playing it safe. Safety and comfort never promote faith. Spoiler Alert: You and I were not created for a life of comfort, security and safety. We are called and sent to change the world in courageous ways. This is not something ideal or radical this is simply the duty and responsibility of Jesus people.

I hope this sermon series will encourage you to break through some of the obstacles we have put in our lives. I hope this will reorient some of our thinking about faith and our calling. I hope this will disciple and even re-disciple our notions of a safe and comfortable Christianity to a more bold and daring faith as Jesus people.

This is not going to be easy, but anything worth doing never is. You will experience bumps and setbacks but you will also experience the joy of faith and the wonderful transforming power of Jesus. I hope this will drive you to draw closer to God and to please God not only with your words, but with your actions as well.

A Special Note:

Lent Bible Readings

On **Wednesdays** we will be posting our **Lent Bible Readings**. These scripture passages are designed to help us prayerfully reflect and prepare for Easter. They will be posted on our YouTube channel for you. We strongly recommend you 'like, subscribe, and turn on notifications' so you will know when the postings are uploaded.

Our first posting is on ASH WEDNESDAY – February 17, 2021.

Breath Prayers

We also have a breath prayer resource for you as well. You can use them to encourage your prayer time.

You can download it [here](https://themcbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Lent-Breath-Prayers-and-Instructions.pdf):

(or copy and paste the link below)

<https://themcbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Lent-Breath-Prayers-and-Instructions.pdf>

SERMON & STUDY SECTION

Acts 4

Sermon Notes & Observations:

(Record some of your thoughts as you listen to the sermon)

Discussion Questions:

Acts 4

Make Me Bold

1. Opener

- a. How comfortable are you with prayer?
- b. What does a BOLD faith mean to you?

2. Review

- a. Read and Reflect on **Acts 4**.
- b. Circle or highlight words or actions that you feel are BOLD from the passage.
- c. Why should we even try to live boldly?

3. Share

- a. Share with others a time you had the opportunity to be bold or to share your faith.
- b. Think about the people you interact with daily:
 - i. How can you be bold in your faith this week?
 - ii. What are some practical steps you can take to be bold?
 - iii. What stops you from being bold?

4. Action

- a. How is God calling you to be BOLD this week?
- b. What needs to change in my life in order for me to be BOLD this week?
- c. What action will I take to be BOLD this week?
- d. How is God calling you to live BOLDLY?

(I invite you to pray this prayer a few times this week and allow it to change you)

Prayer:

Dear Jesus
Because of you we do not have to live a life of fear.
You give us boldness to overcome many obstacles.
Help me to trust you not matter how difficult life seems.
Help me to step forward in obedience and boldness because I know you are with me.
Lord Hear my Prayer,
Amen.

Listen to our Lent Readings - Wednesday February 24, 2021

1 Samuel 3

Sermon Notes & Observations:

(Record some of your thoughts as you listen to the sermon)

Discussion Questions:

1 Samuel 3
Speak to Me

1. Opener

- a. Are you more of a TALKER or a LISTENER?
- b. If you grew up with mealtime prayers – share what those prayers were like.

2. Review

- a. Read and Reflect on **1 Samuel 3**.
- b. When was the last time you were completely “still” before God and you purposely tried to listen to his voice?
- c. How do you “hear” from God?
- d. Hearing God’s voice requires us to: *Be Still - Be Willing - Be Ready*
 - i. Which of these 3 do you struggle with most?

3. Share

- a. What is God speaking to you about right now?
- b. What are you going to do about what God is saying?
- c. What is stopping you from listening to God?
- d. What needs to change in your life in order to hear from God?

4. Action

- a. Set aside some time just to listen for the voice of God
 - i. Sit in a quiet place
 - ii. Set a timer
 - iii. Invite God to speak
 - iv. Just sit and be still

(I invite you to pray this prayer a few times this week and allow it to change you)

Prayer:

God, thank you that you speak to us.

Since the beginning of creation, you spoke and you still speak to us corporately and individually.

Thank you for your patience especially when we do not listen to your voice.

Help me to hear what you have to say, be willing to follow through wherever you lead me.

Lord hear my prayer,

Amen.

Romans 9

Sermon Notes & Observations:

(Record some of your thoughts as you listen to the sermon)

Discussion Questions:

Romans 9
Break My Heart

1. Opener

- a. What are the things you pray about most often?
- b. Is there a correlation between things that you pray for often and the things that cause you anxiety in life?

2. Review

- a. Read and Reflect on **Romans 9**.
 - i. What does it mean to ask God to break your heart?
 1. What feelings does that bring up in you?
 - ii. How have you experienced God's great compassion on your life?
 - iii. How have you observed God's great compassion towards others?

3. Share

- a. Does anything break your heart on God's behalf?
- b. What are you going to do about what breaks your heart?
- c. What is stopping you from allowing God to break your heart?
- d. What needs to change in your life to allow God to break your heart?

4. Action

- a. If God has not broken your heart over something, I invite you to take an action step to ask God to do so.
- b. If God has broken your heart over something, ask God to show you what the next step is.

(I invite you to pray this prayer a few times this week and allow it to change you)

Prayer:

God, thank you for your great love for us.
Thank You that same love for us is also given to others.
You showed us your love by giving your son to restore our relationship with you.
Give me the courage to have my heart broken.
Break my heart for what breaks yours.
Give me boldness to follow through in action.
Lord hear my prayer,
Amen.

Psalm 139

Sermon Notes & Observations:

(Record some of your thoughts as you listen to the sermon)

Discussion Questions:

Psalm 139

Search Me

1. Opener

- a. What is the most courageous prayer you have ever prayed and have seen answered?
- b. What is the most courageous action you have ever undertaken?

2. Review

- a. Read and Reflect on **Psalm 139**.
 - i. Why is it important to ask God to search us?
 - ii. Are you worried about what God will find? Do you think He does not already know?
 - iii. Has anyone ever given you feedback that has been hard to hear about yourself?
 - iv. Do you avoid hearing negative feedback or ideas in opposition to your way of thinking?

3. Share

- a. How does the idea of asking God to 'search your heart', make you feel?
- b. What is stopping you from praying this prayer?
- c. Are you willing to change areas of your life that God reveals need changing?
- d. What fears and anxieties do you have in life?
- e. Do those fears and anxieties reveal a lack of trust in God?

4. Action

- a. I invite you to allow God to search you.
 - i. Sit in a quiet place
 - ii. Set a timer
 - iii. Invite God to search you and bring to the forefront of your mind, areas of your life He would like to change
 - iv. Write them down

(I invite you to pray this prayer a few times this week and allow it to change you)

Prayer:

God, reveal to me the garbage in my life that offends you.
Help me to be offended by my own sin more than the sins of others.
Help me to turn this part of my life around and to live a life full of your promises.
Lord hear my prayer,
Amen.

Listen to our Lent Readings - Wednesday March 17, 2021

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Sermon Notes & Observations:

(Record some of your thoughts as you listen to the sermon)

Discussion Questions:

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Break Me

1. Opener

- a. What is the most expensive thing you've ever broken? How did you break it?
- b. What is something you hate to see wasted?

2. Review

- a. Read and Reflect on **2 Corinthians 4:7-12** and **Mark 14:1-11**.
- b. Mark 14:1-11
 - i. How would you respond to what this woman did?
- c. What does it mean to "deny yourself"?

3. Share

- a. Have you experienced brokenness in your life? Share it.
- b. Are you always trying to stay strong in front of others?
- c. How often do you try to avoid looking weak in front of others?
- d. What does a broken and poured out life look like?
- e. How can God use the broken areas of our life to bless others?
- f. How does vulnerability and shame help and stifle our willingness to be weak and broken?
- g. How does showing our vulnerability help others?

4. Action

- a. Share your weaknesses or vulnerabilities with your group.
- b. Take off the mask of having it altogether and being strong – embrace that God is working in our weaknesses

(I invite you to pray this prayer a few times this week and allow it to change you)

Prayer:

Jesus you demonstrated to us what it means to be broken and poured out.
You showed that in your life and invite us to do the same.
Help us to live openly so others can see Jesus in us.
Help us to deny ourselves and embrace vulnerability.
Lord hear my prayer,
Amen.

Isaiah 6

Sermon Notes & Observations:

(Record some of your thoughts as you listen to the sermon)

Discussion Questions:

Isaiah 6
Send Me

1. Opener

- a. What is one place in the world, you would love to go to?
- b. What is one place in the world, you never want to go to?

2. Review

- a. Read and Reflect on **Isaiah 6**.
- b. Do you ask God more for what He can do for you?
- c. When was the last time you told God what you are willing to do for Him?
- d. What are the various excuses we give for not going to a place or doing the work God calls us to do?

3. Share

- a. When was the last time you felt compelled to do something out of the ordinary, how did you respond?
- b. Jonah – RAN, Moses – SOMEBODY ELSE, Isaiah – SEND ME. Which one are you?
- c. Being sent is not a one-time experience, what does this mean?
- d. What needs to change in my life for me to obey God's calling?
- e. What excuses need to be addressed for me to obey God's calling?

4. Action

- a. God sends us out, it can be close by or far. Where is God sending you out?
- b. Write it down and put it in a visible place at home.

(I invite you to pray this prayer a few times this week and allow it to change you)

Prayer:

Lord, here I am.
Show me where you want to send me.
Send me to the people or places you want me to be.
Lord share with me what I can do for you.
Show me where you are already working and help me to obey.
Lord hear my prayer,
Amen.

Listen to our Easter Readings:

Maundy Thursday – Thursday April 1, 2021

Good Friday – Friday April 2, 2021

Resurrection Sunday – Friday April 4, 2021