

LIFE CHANGING

# PRAYERS

**"ACCESS" // SCOTT FARMER // JUNE 13 & 14, 2015**

## OPENING REMARKS

Prayer changes lives! In this sermon series we aim to accelerate life change by confident, connecting and contributing prayerfulness among us.

We will address fears, failures, and falsehoods about prayer which lead to prayerless and unchanged lives.

Some of you have tried and rejected prayer because "It doesn't work", "I don't get what I need", it is 'boring, a duty, an ought to". God wants to change that! Prayer can be powerful and life-changing.

Today's Big Idea: In prayer we access and discover God

## WARM IT UP

What is prayer like for you?

## TALK IT OVER

Read Luke 18:9-14. If you are in a group, have three people do a readers theatre version: narrator, Pharisee, tax collector.

1. In his sermon, Scott said, "Two people think they are praying. One is. One is not." Do you agree/disagree? Why?
2. What do you know about the two figures Jesus uses in this parable: Pharisees? Tax Collectors?
3. What life change did each of the men get out of this experience?

## WORK IT OUT

1. Imagine a path starting with the Tax Collector's prayer and leading to the Pharisees "prayer." How would a Tax Collector turn into a Pharisee?
2. Where are you on this path?
3. Is there a way to pray like a Tax Collector but still have the behavioral excellence of a Pharisee? If so, [and I hope there is!] How?

## WRAP IT UP

1. What does it feel like for you to pray the tax collector's Sinner's Prayer?
2. Can you commit to praying this sinner's "breath prayer" daily this week and then check in with someone in your group to debrief your experience? Debrief questions: What was it like? in relation to yourself? toward God? toward others?

## PRAY IT THROUGH

Pray the seven word breath prayer together"

Breathe in "God, have mercy". Breathe out "on me, a sinner."