

**PRIORITISING
PRAYER**




FAIRFIELD VISION 2014

Tim Goodall
5 January 2014



1


Philip Yancey



‘I write as a pilgrim, not an expert ... before beginning this book I mostly avoided the topic of prayer out of guilt and a sense of inferiority.’

2

Where we’re going...



- ⌘ What do we mean by prioritising prayer?
- ⌘ Why prioritise prayer?
- ⌘ How do we at Fairfield prioritise prayer?

3

**PRIORITISING
PRAYER:
What do we mean?**



**FAIRFIELD VISION
2014**

4

What do we mean by prioritising prayer?



☞ 2 examples:

☞ Eric Harmer

☞ Beccy Manley Pippert

☞ Theory vs. practice

5

What do we mean by prioritising prayer?



☞ Richard Foster:

‘We today yearn for prayer and hide from prayer. We are attracted to it and repelled by it. We believe prayer is something we should do, even something we want to do; but it seems as if a chasm stands between us and actually praying.’

6

What do we mean by prioritising prayer?



☞ Bridging the gap between theory & practice

☞ It's all about relationship!

☞ Making sure we are talking to and listening to God in all we do at Fairfield

7

**PRIORITISING
PRAYER:
Why?**



**FAIRFIELD VISION
2014**

8

Why prioritise prayer?



- ☞ It's thoroughly Biblical
- ☞ The Psalms:
 - ☞ Cries of despair when God seems distant (13:1-2)
 - ☞ Demands to be saved (6:3-4)
 - ☞ Joy of praising God (136)
 - ☞ Anger, outrage, bitterness (137)

9

Why prioritise prayer?



- ☞ It's thoroughly Biblical
- ☞ Jesus' teaching:
 - ☞ Our **Father**
 - ☞ Relationship, not technique

10

Why prioritise prayer?



- ☞ It's thoroughly Biblical
- ☞ Paul's letters:
 - ☞ 1 Thess. 5:16-18 – pray continually
 - ☞ Romans 12:12 – be faithful in prayer.
 - ☞ Eph. 5:20 – always give thanks to God in everything
 - ☞ Eph. 6:18 – pray in the Spirit on all occasions
 - ☞ Col. 4:2 – devote yourselves to prayer
 - ☞ 1 Tim. 2:1 – prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made
 - ☞ 1 Tim. 2:8 – lift up holy hands in prayer
- ☞ **Philippians 4**

11

Why prioritise prayer?



- ☞ If we don't, we drift
- ☞ Without communication with God, there's no relationship with God.
- ☞ At Fairfield, we don't want to ignore God!
- ☞ But, good news!

12

**PRIORITISING
PRAYER:
How do we do it?**

**FAIRFIELD VISION
2014**

13

How do we prioritise prayer?



1. Collective prayer times:
 - ☞ Sunday morning 9.30am in room 4
 - ☞ Thursday morning 9.15am in small hall
 - ☞ Monthly House of Prayer: Fairfield:
 - ☞ Whole day prayer - Tuesday 21 January

14

How do we prioritise prayer?



2. Prayer sermon series:
 - ☞ What is prayer & how does it work?
 - ☞ How do I pray?
 - ☞ Corporate prayer
 - ☞ Prayer of confession and accountability
 - ☞ Intercessory prayer
 - ☞ What about unanswered prayer?
 - ☞ Worship & thanksgiving

15

How do we prioritise prayer?



3. Prayer ministry team
 - ☞ Available every Sunday
 - ☞ Open to all
 - ☞ Opportunity to respond to God each week
4. Illuminate
 - ☞ Monthly on Sunday evening
 - ☞ Space to let God's Spirit work
 - ☞ Prayer ministry always available

16

How do we prioritise prayer?



5. Housegroups & Prayer triplets
 - ☞ First of each term given to prayer
6. Eldership
 - ☞ Weekly prayer – Friday mornings
 - ☞ Regular prayer for all members
7. Sunday services
 - ☞ Always a part of our time together

17

PRIORITISING PRAYER



Much going on...
...ultimately down to you & I.

18