

Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry

July 27, 2025

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Extraordinary Ordinary Faith

15 Minutes **Gathering and Check-in ... *share where you've encountered God this week.***

Prayer Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p43)

45 Minutes **Introduction:** Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me." (from Sundays and Seasons)

Discussion Questions:

Read again Luke 11:1-13

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?

What are Jesus' lessons in prayer?

Why does some of it seem ordinary?

Why does some of it seem extraordinary?

How have you experienced God in/through prayer?

What in your life encourages persistence in prayer?

How can prayer be an extraordinary gift?

Read again Genesis 18:20-32

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

How does this story show Abraham's persistence?

What is God's response to this persistence?

What does this story teach us about a relationship with God?

What does this story teach us about prayer? Community?

Read again Colossians 2:6-15

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

Explore the image of baptism in this passage.

How does our baptism ground us in Christ and why is that important in life and faith?

Read and reflect on Psalm 138 if you'd like.

20 Minutes **Prayer Requests and Prayer**

10 Minutes **Wrap Up and Get Ready to Leave Session**