

## **Marinating in God's Word**

Our Preacher this week is Brad Long. He is addressing us on a number of topics, including how prayer shapes the future.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions about scriptural prayer promises:

- Read Matthew 7:7-11. If we know what God gives is good (v. 11), then we're bolder to pray persistently as we pursue his goodness for us. What have you learned about persisting in prayer? When your prayer is not immediately answered as you ask, and you have to seek and knock, what is the impact upon you? As you persist, does your prayer focus shift? How does that work?
- Read Matthew 18:19-20. This prayer promise describes a power for prayer that comes through prayer partners. How have you seen this work? What do you think it means to agree in prayer?
- Read 1 John 5:14-15. How do we know if what we ask is "according to his will"? What roles do the scripture, our experience, and the Spirit's guidance play in this? What is the difference between the "boldness" of prayer described here, and timid or presumptuous prayer?
- Some common prayer focus points are thanksgiving, confession, intercession for others, and petition for our own needs. Which of these come most readily to you? Where do you most need to develop your prayer practices?

Next week our focus will be on Acts 17:16-34.