Key Verses:

*Mark* 1.29-37

29 And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon’s mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. 31 And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. 32 That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door. 34 And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. 35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, 37 and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.”

*Luke* 11.1-4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” 2 He said to them, “When you pray, say:  “Father hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread. 4 Forgive us our sins,  for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.”"

Summary: Our new sermon series, A Method in the Madness invites us to explore and create a method that helps us to stay connected to God. We are challenged to consider the patterns and rhythms of our life and plan new ways to hear from God and live for God. On Sunday, Jacob suggested that the root of connecting with God is prayer. Jesus modeled for us how to live a life of regular conversation with God. He was regularly seen stealing away to pray—at all times of day, no matter how busy his schedule was. There are many ways to pray. God invites us to begin the conversation (He’s already speaking to you!), to continue the conversation that may have been put on hold, and to deepen the conversation.

Read and Discuss

*Unless otherwise noted, scriptures have been researched and referenced based on the New International Version (NIV); however any translation is perfectly acceptable to use for discussion.*

1. Prayer Practice

As group members are comfortable, share some of your experiences with prayer. What has worked? What have you found to be difficult? Remember that there is no perfect answer here.
Scripture: Mark 1.29-37

Read Mark 1.29:37 aloud.

• What had Jesus been doing before his morning prayer in verse 35?
• What do you notice about the moment Jesus chose for prayer?
• How would you label what happens in verses 36-37? Does this ever happen in your prayer life? How do handle these interruptions?

2. **Teach us to pray**
Read Luke 11.1-4

• Have you ever had someone in your life that models something so well that you can't help but ask, "How do you do that?" Explain.
• What assumptions can we make about Jesus based on the request of the disciples in verse 1?

3. **Finding words to pray.** Using the traditional version of Jesus’ prayer below, write your own words to reflect Jesus’ method. You may choose to do this as individuals or as a group.

Our Father, which art in heaven, ________________________________

Hallowed be thy Name. __________________________________________

Thy Kingdom come, ____________________________________________

Thy will be done on earth, ________________________________________

As it is in heaven. _______________________________________________

Give us this day our daily bread. ________________________________

And forgive us our trespasses, ____________________________________

As we forgive those who trespass against us. _______________________

And lead us not into temptation, _________________________________

But deliver us from evil. _________________________________________

For thine is the kingdom, _______________________________________

The power, and the glory, ______________________________________

For ever and ever. ____________________________________________

Amen.

4. To form your closing prayer, take turns sharing lines of the prayer you’ve written above.