

# Get Involved: Pray

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## EMBRACE Prayer Group October 2016

Feeling empty or frustrated in your work? Running out of steam?

In Mark's gospel chapter 9 we read that the disciples were unable to remove a demon from a boy. They were confused and deflated. And so they asked Jesus – why couldn't we drive it out? To which Jesus replied – this kind can come out only by prayer.

What does Jesus' reply tell us about what was going on? Clearly the disciples were not praying. They were attempting to do good things but they were not depending on God. They had grown arrogant, they couldn't see their weakness and later they continued to debate who was the greatest among them.

Sadly, what was happening among the disciples is often true of us. We get so busy in helping others that we forget to pray. Faced with the huge numbers of displaced people in so many countries we wonder what difference prayer will make. We feel powerless in the face of overwhelming need. We forget that prayer is recognising our weakness and instead recognising God's ability to transform a situation. We go in our own strength but soon we hit a brick wall. We are not powerful enough, we are not able to transform anyone or turn around any situation. But God is and he uses his people to do so. So we must go out in his strength, which is evident when we bring everything to God in prayer.

Are you finding yourself neglecting to pray? Well you are no different than the disciples trying to do God's work without God. It's vain, it's fruitless and inevitably it will leave you disappointed and frustrated. Begin today in prayer, asking for God's blessing in all that you do for Him.

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### Pray

- that God would overcome our prayer fatigue and not let us yield to compassion fatigue.
- that we would recognise our weakness and the fruitlessness of going about our tasks without depending on God's strength.
- that we would recognise the greatness of God and so fall on our knees frequently, recognising that He is the one who has power to change individuals and difficult situations, locally and internationally.
- that as we rely on God, that God would use us to remove the many 'demons' in our society.

Contributed by Philip McCollum.