



The
Circle
Maker

Study Guide & Questions

Circle Maker Discussion Questions

As you work through this book and work through these questions, it is my hope that you keep a humble perspective; this isn't about you, it is about God. At the same time remember that God has chosen you, wants to grow in and around you, and wants to use you to make an eternal difference in the lives around you. Some questions have * which indicates there is space to write an answer in the back of the booklet.

Chapter 1

Batterson shared about the legend of Honi. What is one of the wildest answers to prayer you have ever heard of or experienced?

Chapter 2

Batterson states, "Bold prayers honor God, and God honors bold prayers." What makes a prayer bold?

Have you ever prayed a bold prayer? What was it?

Do you feel like God is for you? What evidence do you have to justify your answer?

Have you ever done a prayer walk?

Chapter 3

Batterson shares the story of Israel walking around Jericho and then he asks, "What is your Jericho?*" By this he is asking, what huge, God-inspired thing are you praying for?

Batterson suggests that we don't just read the Bible but that we pray the Bible. How would you go about doing this? How can you pray scripture?

Batterson also suggests that you don't just pray but that you also keep a prayer journal. Have you ever written out your prayers? Have you ever gone back to the prayer journal and seen how God has been faithful? Would you consider starting a prayer journal?

Vague prayers are weak prayers because they miss the mark of actually inviting God into something specific. What is an example of a vague prayer? How can you become more specific in your prayers?

Batterson shared his personal definition of success on pages 27 and 28. He wrote out three statements that if achieved he would consider his life successful. What would you identify as a statement or two that would define a successful life for you?*

Chapter 4

What comes to mind when you hear the statement, “You are only one prayer away from a miracle.”

What makes a prayer a quality prayer? Is it frequency, accuracy, word choice, intensity, or something all together different?

Have you ever given up on a prayer?

Part 1

Batterson states, “Nothing honors God more than a big dream that is way beyond our ability to accomplish.” Do you agree with this? Why could it be true?

Chapter 5

Batterson writes, "In order to experience a miracle, you have to take a risk." What is a risk you have taken that lead to a miracle? What is a risk you wish you would have taken? Is there a risk you are being called to take?

What is a miracle that you are currently taking for granted?

Batterson shares the story of his church writing their first check to missions and then writes, "You'll never outgive God." How do you give to God? How have you experienced this statement to be true? How is giving risky?

In pages 55-56 Batterson shares about a multiplication anointing. Then on page 57 in the first full paragraph he lists out various things and people you could pray circles around. What would you ask God to multiply and who might God be asking you to circle in prayer?

Chapter 6

Batterson writes, “Having vision beyond your resources is synonymous with dreaming big.” Are your dreams that big? Are your dreams for you or for the kingdom?

When is the last time God surprised you?

“One bold prayer can accomplish more than a thousand well-laid plans.” If you were to write out a bold prayer for your week, month, and year what would they be?

Chapter 7

How does it make you feel to know that your hardest prayers are still easy for God?

Batterson shares a story about being prayed for on page 73 and 74 and receiving an answer that wasn't what he expected. Have you ever had an experience like this?

Part 2

On page 81 the story of the persistent widow is shared. What does this scripture teach us about prayer? How have you experienced the truth of this lesson?

What do you think it means to pray hard?

Chapter 8

Would you consider yourself a persistent person? What is one thing you could do to increase your persistence in prayer?

Why is it so defeating when God says not yet or not that in response to our prayers? If God has all the wisdom why is he so hard to trust in the situations when he says no? Batterson revisits the idea of praying through the Bible. He writes, "Reading is the way you get through the Bible, prayer is the way you get the Bible through you." What does he mean by this? Take some time right now and practice praying some scripture.

Chapter 9

Batterson writes, “It’s hard not to pray with faith when you’re praying in a place where God has already done a miracle.” Do you have a place like that? Do you have a place to pray? If you don’t what are some possible places that you could pray regularly?

How is the scripture, “Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven.” helpful? How can it be misunderstood or abused?

Batterson writes about circling his children. Have you ever considered this? If you don’t have children who could you circle? Take some time and write out some prayer circles around your children.*

Have you ever seen God answer a prayer of yours that was for someone else?

Chapter 10

Batterson writes, “Maybe you’re in a desperate situation right now...It may seem like God is nowhere to be seen, but maybe God is setting the stage for a miracle.” When was the last time you could relate to those words?

Why does God provide just enough sometimes?

Batterson shares, “A few years ago, I prayed a prayer that changed my life. I believe it can change your life as well, but it takes tremendous courage to pray it like you mean it. And you have to count the cost. *Lord, complicated my life.*” Discuss this prayer and all its various implications.

Have you ever considered the harder you pray the harder you will have to work and that is a blessing from God? Have you ever experienced this?

Batterson writes, “The reason many of us miss the miracles is that we aren’t looking and listening. The easy part of prayer is talking. It’s much harder listening to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit.” How much time do you spend listening in prayer? Why is listening so hard? Have you ever heard the still small voice? If you were to quiet yourself right now what are you hearing the Spirit say to you?*

In one part of the chapter Batterson writes about “Wet Feet” and that the Israelites had to take a step of faith

before they saw the miracle. What step of faith is God calling you to right now? Can you lean into a time in your past when you took a step of faith and then God showed up?

What are a few of your current prayer promptings?

Chapter 11

When was the last time you realized that a dream or prayer was not going to happen? How did it make you feel? Have you ever moved to a place of seeing how this could have been a good thing?

Have you ever experienced the truth of the following statement, "Sometimes God gets in the way to show us the way."

Do you believe God has a better plan when God doesn't answer all of your prayers?

What do you think it means to pray Revelation 3:7-8?

Part 3

How is praying like planting? For who and what are you planting?

Chapter 12

What personal prayer have you prayed the most?

When was the last time you had a sleepless night that led you to prayer?

Batterson shares about hiking the Inca Trail. He then states, "It's not just where you end up that's important; it's how you get there." How have you experienced the reality of the harder it was to accomplish or achieve the better and more satisfying it was?

How have you been the recipient of a prayer or prayers prayed for you?

Is there something God is asking you to pray through?

Chapter 13

Daniel didn't just pray when he had a bad day; he prayed every day. Is this true of you? Why and how did he do it?

Batterson talks about prayer postures. What prayer postures have you seen or tried? Why would one pray in a specific posture?

On page 154 Batterson talks about how reading scripture primes our hearts. What does he mean by this and what is the outcome by such a practice?

What is your daily rhythm with God? Are you a lark or an owl? What habits or disciplines would you like to implement into your daily life this week?*

On page 158 Batterson talks about a prayer experiment. What would a prayer experiment look like for you?*

Chapter 14

Have you ever fasted before?

Batterson writes, “When I have a big decision to make, I circle it with a fast.” Why do you think he does this? Have you ever done this?

What comes to mind when you hear the words of Jesus, “Couldn’t you keep watch with me for one hour?” Have you ever prayed for an hour straight? What was the experience like? When could you do this again?

Chapter 15

Batterson writes, "Goals are dreams with deadlines." What is the last goal you set that you achieved?

What is a BHAG? Do you know what the bridge's current BHAGS are? What would be your top five BHAGS?*

Work through the ten steps to goal setting and set a minimum of 20 goals.*

Part 4

How is prayer circling like climbing a mountain?

Chapter 16

Have you ever felt like a decision you were about to make was risking your reputation? How did it turn out?

How could you jump start a double miracle?

Chapter 17

What is a double anointing?

Who is someone you could be praying for right now to receive the favor of God?

Chapter 18

Who can you partner with in prayer?*

My Jericho is ...

One definition of a successful life for me is ...

Three Bold Prayers I could start praying right now are ...

A couple prayers I could pray over my children are ...

Right now I hear the prompting of the Spirit saying ...

My ideal daily rhythm with God looks like ...

My prayer experiment would be ...

My five BHAGS are ...

A few of my goals are ...

I will partner in prayer with ...

Notes/Prayers/Thoughts

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