Teaching Handout

*The Circle Maker* by Mark Batterson

Chapter 4

For January 27, 2013 Zadok Orchestra Lifegroup

1. Handout: [“Do You Have Big Fierceness?” handout](http://www.fromhispresence.com/2012/12/08/do-you-have-big-fierceness/) (word study of ‘makrothumia’)

II. Review:

* + 1. God is with us.
    2. He loves us.
    3. He’s for us.
    4. So we can and must pray boldly, and we can expect answers.
    5. In order to get those answers, we must clearly define what we are praying for.
    6. And to obtain a God’s-eye view of what to pray for, we need to get alone with God.

III. Chapter 4 is about “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

1. It’s always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to stop praying. What will happen to you if you stop praying the day before your miracle was scheduled to come?

2. True prayer is interceding until God intervenes.

3. Luke 18:1-6: The word for “bear long” in the Greek is makrothumeo /mak-roth-oo-MEH-o/, which is related to “makrothumia” (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). It means to be of a long spirit, not to lose heart; to have big fierceness.

4. Matthew 15:21-29

5. God is saying to us, “Come on!” But will you push through? Will He find faith in your heart?

6. Even though God may bear long with you without seeming to answer, He will surely avenge you, His elect.

D. Praise

* + 1. Joshua 6:1-2: *“Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.****2****And the Lord said to Joshua: “See! I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.”*
    2. The Lord said that He had given Jericho to Joshua in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It was already \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Joshua just had to obey and receive it.
    3. Our works are also already \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for us.
    4. Ephesians 2:10
    5. Hebrews 4:3
    6. The works are prepared, but we have to receive them. So after we pray and pray through, there comes a point when we just need to start praising God for answering our prayer.
    7. If you have prayed and prayed and still haven’t seen the answer, just start \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and thanking Him for the answer when you pray.
    8. We can’t buy God or manipulate Him into acting. But we can build our own faith and remind Him of His own promises. Reminding God of His promises is pleasing to Him and builds our faith.

Spurgeon, “Pray Without Ceasing,” March 10, 1872: *“Never give up praying, not even though Satan should suggest to you that it is in vain for you to cry unto God. Pray in his teeth; "pray without ceasing." If for awhile the heavens are as brass and your prayer only echoes in thunder above your head, pray on; if month after month your prayer appears to have miscarried, and no reply has been vouchsafed to you, yet still continue to draw nigh unto the Lord. Do not abandon the mercy-seat for any reason whatever. If it be a good thing that you have been asking for, and you are sure it is according to the divine will, if the vision tarry wait for it, pray, weep, entreat, wrestle, agonise till you get that which you are praying for. If your heart be cold in prayer, do not restrain prayer until your heart warms, but pray your soul unto heat by the help of the everblessed Spirit who helpeth our infirmities. If the iron be hot then hammer it, and if it be cold hammer it till you heat it. Never cease prayer for any sort of reason or argument. …Never, never, never renounce the habit of prayer, or your confidence in its power.”*