



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 1: Joy in Prayer

Suggested Week of Use: September 5, 2021

Core Passage: Philippians 1:1-11

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### **News Story Summary**

Josh Elchert, owner of Heavenly Pizza in Findlay, Ohio, declared July 5 as “Employee Appreciation Day.” Elchert wanted to show his gratitude to his employees for consistently showing up to work with a positive attitude during the pandemic. Elchert enlisted the help of his customers and dedicated an entire day’s sales, including tips, to his employees. After preparing two hundred and twenty orders and collecting \$6,300 in sales and \$1,200 in tips, each employee earned nearly \$80 an hour during their shift on this appreciation day.

For more about this story, search “Restaurant Owner Gave Entire Day’s Sales.”

### **Focus Attention**

To supplement the Respond idea under Focus Attention, after stating that friends who pray for us are treasured, invite the group to share how they show that their colleagues, friends, and family are treasured. Share information about the restaurant owner who gave his employees the proceeds from the day. Express to the group that the owner was not only showing that they were treasured, but he was also expressing his gratitude. Continue with the note regarding Paul’s suggestion of joy flowing when we remember a friend in prayer.

### **Summarize and Challenge**

To supplement the Extend idea under Summarize and Challenge, remind the group of the news story about the pizza restaurant owner. Direct the group members to list in their copy of the Personal Study Guide or Daily Discipleship Guide a gesture that they could do this week to show their appreciation for someone in their life.