

## COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR GROUP

### TEXT MESSAGES:

*SEND THIS TO EVERYONE IN YOUR GROUP:* Hi! Just wanted to let you know that I'm asking God to help give you His perspective as we begin our prayer series. Remember - God is good. All the time.

*SEND THIS TO ANYONE WHO MISSED GROUP THIS WEEK:* Hey—we missed you at group! Here's the link to the video so you can catch up. Hope all is well and can't wait to see you next week!

*SEND THIS TO ONE OR TWO PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP, JUST BECAUSE:* Hey! Just touching base. How has your week been? Will I see you at life group next week?

### EMAIL:

Hey everyone! Hope you all are having a great week! I wanted to send out a quick email to let everyone know that WE are starting a new series on prayer in Life Group this week. This series is called "Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home" and we are going to take a look at the different types of prayer and how we can incorporate them into our lives.

I'm really looking forward to our time together. Here are the details for our meeting: Date/time: Address: Our weekly Bible Reading Plan and the questions for this week are attached. See you guys soon!

## BIBLE READING PLAN

*If you're looking for a more personal way to encourage your group members to read Scripture, try texting each day's Scripture and prompt to the group. Or, EMAIL THEM out each week. That way they have each day's reading as the week begins.*

MONDAY (Day 1) 1 Kings 3:6-9

Solomon asks for a discerning heart. Have you ever asked God for wisdom? What areas of your life do you need wisdom?

TUESDAY (Day 2) Matthew 6:5-15

Jesus teaches about prayer. Immediately preceding the Lord's Prayer, Jesus tells us to go to a private place and pray. Where is your favorite place to pray? What is your favorite time to pray?

WEDNESDAY (Day 3) Psalm 139

David prays for God to lead him. David gets real with God in this prayer and invites God to correct him. Do you ever ask God to show you your blindspots? If not, why?

THURSDAY (Day 4) Jonah 2:1-9

Jonah thanks God from inside a fish. God saved Jonah's life. Jonah thanks God. What does it feel like to be thanked by others? How does practicing gratitude affect our relationship with God?

FRIDAY (Day 5) Luke 18:9-17

The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. Why does Jesus accept the tax collector's prayer over the prayer of the Pharisee? What does this short parable teach you about prayer?

**SUMMARY**

Prayer brings us closer to God and others. We will look at prayer in three ways during this series: inward, upward, and outward.

This week we will move inward and seek the transformation we need.

Next week we will move upward and seek the intimacy we need.

And in two weeks we will move outward and seek the ministry we need.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are a guide to get the conversation started in your group—don't feel like you need to ask everything you see here! As long as you're having a conversation, you're on the right track. Also, feel free to adjust the questions for the needs of your specific group.*

Describe a time in your life you have been successful praying. What are some of the things you did that made your prayer life effective?

What are some things that make consistent and meaningful prayer difficult? Busyness is a common reason people struggle praying. What are some practical solutions to growing in your prayer life with a busy schedule?

Do you ever feel not good enough to pray? What would you say to somebody who told you they didn't feel they had their life in order enough to pray? What do you think God would say to somebody who doesn't feel worthy to pray?

Jesus tells us prayer is like little children approaching their parents. What does this metaphor teach us about prayer?

Prayers don't have to be, and shouldn't be overly complex. Talk about the possibilities of simple prayer.

Soren Kierkegaard wrote about prayer: "The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays." How has prayer changed you in the past? What would you like to see prayer change about you in the future?

Prayer moves us from our will to God's will. Does this scare you? Does this excite you?

Have you ever regularly prayed with anybody before? What was it like? What is preventing you from praying with a partner during this study and possibly continuing that practice beyond this study? Talk in your group about how to make this happen

What do you hope to accomplish through this study? How can others in the group help you?

## CONSIDER THIS - LIFEGROUP APPLICATION

*Read this before you meet. Then, take a moment after your discussion to go over this application with your Life Group. How does this relate to your Life Group? Is it something you are already doing? If so, how can you do it better? If not, what steps can your group take to make this application happen?*

This month, WE will be focusing on prayer both within Life Groups and in church through our series, "Help. Thanks. Wow. Amen." Think about your Life Group. How would you say your group does as a whole? Does everyone participate in prayer time? Does the same person usually pray?

How can you create a Life Group environment that lends itself to prayer? As the Life Group Leader, how can you facilitate and encourage prayer within your group?

Take time today to discuss prayer within your group. Ask for suggestions on how your group can become one centered around prayer. Brainstorm ideas on how you can continue to pray for and with one another during the week.

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## WRAPPING UP

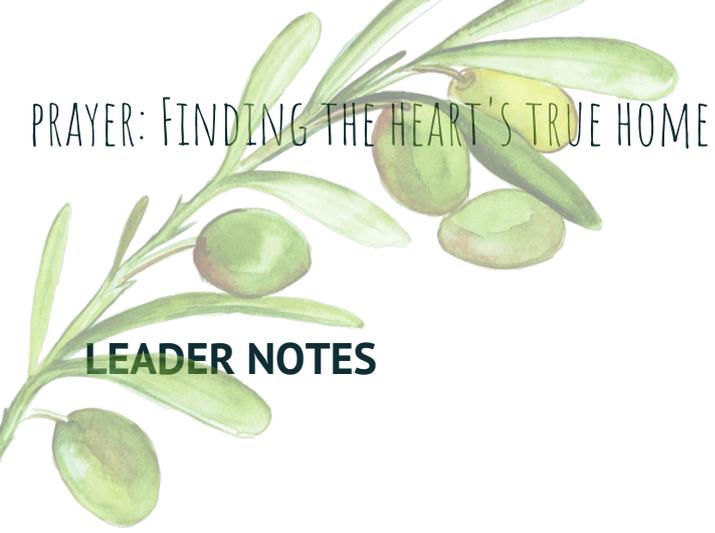
### PRAY

Praying for one another is an essential part in growing in community and in our faith.

Today, after asking for prayer requests/celebrations, have one person volunteer to open in prayer. After opening the prayer, invite each person who is comfortable in doing so to offer their own simple prayer during this time, once you feel everyone has participated who wants to, close the prayer for your group.

### MAKE PLANS TO MEET AGAIN

Remind everyone that you will be meeting again next week. If you need to make plans regarding location or meals, now is a great time to do that. This way, you can include the info in your reminder email.



PRAYER: FINDING THE HEART'S TRUE HOME

WEEK 1 - INWARD PRAYER  
LEADERS GUIDE

**LEADER NOTES**