

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR GROUP

TEXT MESSAGES:

SEND THIS TO EVERYONE IN YOUR GROUP: Hi! Hope you're having a great week! Is there any way we can pray for you this week?

SEND THIS TO ANYONE WHO MISSED GROUP THIS WEEK: Hey—we missed you at group this week! Is there anything we can pray about for you?

SEND THIS TO ONE OR TWO PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP, JUST BECAUSE:
Hi! Just checking in. How's your week going? How can I pray for you?

EMAIL:

SEND THIS TO EVERYONE:
Hope you all are having a great week! I wanted to send out a quick email to let everyone know what we'll be talking about in life group this week. We're in the final week of "Prayer: Finding The Heart's True Home." This week, we will be taking a look at outward prayer and how spending time praying for others can help build our relationships with others and God.

I hope you have all enjoyed this series! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone this week.

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) Exodus 17:8-13

Moses and the Israelites succeeded in their venture not just because of the efforts of Moses, but because throughout the day, others were there to support and lift him up. Who is supporting you, praying for you, lifting you up? Who are you doing this for?

TUESDAY (Day 2) Matthew 8:5-13

By his action in bringing his request to Jesus, the centurion demonstrated great desire, care for, and love for his servant. Jesus rewarded his faith. How have you seen God respond to your prayers and faith?

WEDNESDAY (Day 3) Exodus 32: 9-14

Desperate times call for desperate prayers. In the midst of desperation, how have you "sought the favor of the mighty Lord"?

THURSDAY (Day 4) Philippians 1:3-11

Paul's prayer for his friends and the church in Philippi is deep; full of hope and desire for their faith and well-being. How do your prayers exhibit a love and desire for others that is "far more than it is within our power to give them"?

FRIDAY (Day 5) Genesis 18:16-33

Prayer on behalf of others is a powerful tool. As we pray for others, it increases our love for them and our faith in God. How have you demonstrated this for others you care about this week?

SUMMARY

When we extend our prayer life outward, we bring God our recognition of His activity in our lives, our daily prayers and desires, and the needs and hurts of others. These prayers, for ourselves and others, help us to share in God's work in our lives, and in loving and caring for those we lift up.

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.

How was prayer demonstrated to you growing up, if at all?
What impressions has that left with you today?

In what ways do you see and recognize God at work in your life? Do you regularly look for and acknowledge "God Sightings" in your day-to-day comings and goings? What kind of things do you typically see?

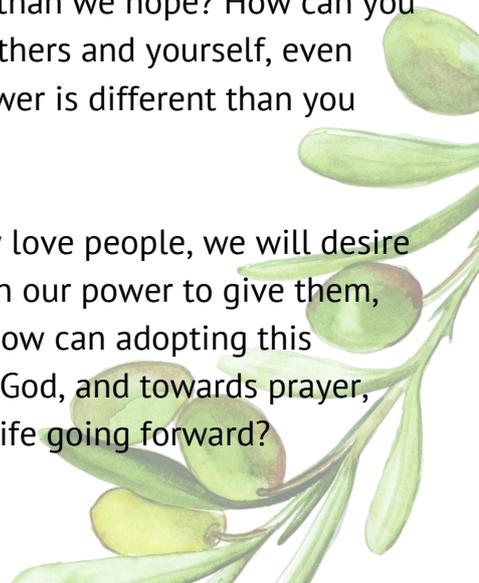
When you pray for others, what do you typically pray for?
How do you think the substance and focus of those prayers impacts others, you, and even God?

Have you ever wondered if it is okay to "ask" things from God?
How does it help you to know that Jesus demonstrated prayer that involves "petition" and "intercession"?

Have you ever felt your prayers were not answered, or that God doesn't seem to answer your prayers in the way you asked for them to be answered?

In what ways have you seen God still at work, even when our prayers are answered differently than we hope? How can you continue to lift up the needs of others and yourself, even knowing that at times, God's answer is different than you hoped for?

Richard Foster writes, "If we truly love people, we will desire for them far more than it is within our power to give them, and this will lead us to prayer." How can adopting this attitude towards others, towards God, and towards prayer, influence and guide your prayer life going forward?



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?

One of the greatest parts of Life Groups is the community we form with one another. A "tribe" of people committed to doing life together. Outside of Sunday. Outside of the walls of the church. Outside of the perimeters of meeting times and schedules. Part of growing this tribe is committing to actively and regularly praying with and for one another.

Does your group already do this? If so, how can you build upon what you are already doing? How can you ensure this is regularly and continuously happening?

If your group does not currently do this, discuss some ways that you can commit to praying for each other regularly.

WRAPPING UP

PRAY

Praying for one another is an essential part in growing in community and in our faith. Today, pair off into groups and allow adequate time for the individuals in the group to share their prayer requests and pray with one another.

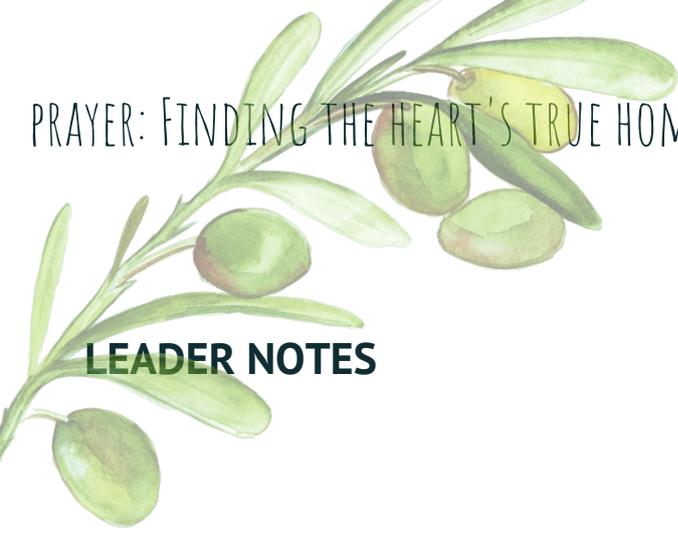
When your time is up, come back together as a group and invite someone to pray for the entire group.

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 3 - OUTWARD PRAYER
LEADERS GUIDE



LEADER NOTES