



PRAYER

TROUBLE | BLESSING | REVELATION | WORSHIP

Small Group Study Guide | 8th January

Topic: Prayer and Trouble

Bible passages: James 5:13, Psalm 102

INTRODUCTION

When we are in trouble, a reflex is to call for help. Whatever our prayer discipline is, or indeed whether or not we have an active faith, the response of many people when trouble comes into their lives is to pray, 'God help me'. The bible actually commends this (James 5:13). How much of our prayer is need based as opposed to other modes of prayer? You may feel guilty about only praying for your needs- actually it's not a bad place to start, but it's not prayer maturity.

QUESTIONS

1. The early Church was a praying Church. Can you identify prominent prayer meetings recorded in the book of Acts. Why did they pray?
2. Prayers of 'faith' are commended in James too (James 5:15). What challenges does trouble have to a prayer of faith.
3. Lessons from the global Church to the Church in the UK would include the fact that prayer and fasting are much more vital parts of the growing global Church than the UK Church. Why do you think this is so?
4. What is the difference between the way we pray when we encounter the troubles that come from the trials of life (e.g. sickness) and the trouble that comes through persecution and opposition?
5. As well as praying about our own troubles how active are we in praying for the troubles of others? How could we do this effectively with our unchurched friends?

What troubles do you want to bring to God that you can share in your small group? As a small group who can you identify that doesn't yet belong that you can pray for?

Small Group Study Guide | 15th January

Topic: Prayer and Blessing

Bible passages: Genesis 32:26, Hebrews 11:21, Psalm 121.

INTRODUCTION

Jacob was famous for wrestling for a blessing (Gen 32:36) but was blessed to be a blessing, and he blesses his sons (Genesis 49).

QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between a prayer seeking blessing and a prayer seeking help?
2. What is the basis for asking for blessing? What does a prayer for blessing tell us about our attitude to ourselves and our attitude to God?
3. How can we be channels of blessing by praying for others? What place does Spiritual authority have in blessing others (Hebrews 7:7)?
4. How can your small group see more of God's kingdom come in your circles of influence by cultivating a culture of prayers of blessing?

Give some time to considering how you can pray blessings on your work place and community, and how you might discern answers to prayer

Small Group Study Guide | 22nd January

Topic: Prayer and Revelation

Bible passages: 2 Cor 12:1-6, Revelation 1:10, Psalm 139: 23-24

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is not a one way conversation. As we pray to God we position ourselves for God to speak to us and give us revelation.

QUESTIONS

1. How much, and how do we listen to God in prayer? What steps can we take (Psalm 131:2) to calm and quieten ourselves?
 2. Can you describe ways in which God speaks to you, and share any stories of getting 'revelation' in prayer?
 3. In Psalm 139 the psalmist asks God to search him. How does prayer to God bring us revelation about ourselves, self-knowledge and insight into our own nature and motivation? Why is this important?
 4. How do we test 'revelation' and discern what is truly from God rather than from our own imagination?
 5. How can revelation in prayer guide and shape a whole community? How much do we expect this to happen at Woodlands?
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Small Group Study Guide | 29th January

Topic: Prayer and Worship

Bible passages: 2 Cor 12:1-6, Revelation 1:10, Psalm 139: 23-24

INTRODUCTION

'Harp and Bowl' is one image to describe the way the worship and prayers of the Church rise up to God like incense. As we have seen from the Psalms worship and prayer flow together and worship is often prayer- a pouring out of the soul to God facilitated by musical worship.

QUESTIONS

1. Acts 13:1-3 describes a worship and prayer event that led to some pivotal actions that altered the course of Church history! Do you think the gathering expected the outcome? How important was it that prophecy was included in this worship gathering?
 2. In 1 Corinthians 14: 26-29 the Church worship is described as a gathering with lots of different vocal contributions, including hymns, but also revelations, speaking in tongues etc. Is this an appropriate model for small group worship times today?
 3. How does worship fuel passion in prayer in your experience? Do we need the help of worship to get head and heart in sync with one another or is this mere 'emotionalism'?
 4. Our experience at Woodlands is that prayer and worship events are far better attended than prayer meetings. Why is this? What would be your ideal structure for a prayer event at Woodlands? Does worship interrupt the serious business of intercession?
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