

PRAY WITH THE KING

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

1st Meeting **THEME: Pray with the Lord's prayer (1)**

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read Matthew 6 : 5-15

20.00 – 20.10 Start Do you love to pray or do you struggle with it (or both)? When/how/what do you usually pray?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to bless you through His Word in these meetings. Ask the Lord that together you may grow in a life of prayer.

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage: Read Matthew 6 : 5-15

Look again at verses 5-8 **'How not to pray'**

- Is prayer in public always wrong? What is the point we should learn from verses 5-6?
- Should prayers always be short? What is the point we should learn from verses 7-8?

Look again at verse 9a **'Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven'**

- Look at Psalm 2:7 and at Psalm 89:26-28. God is in the first place the Father of the promised King, of Jesus. If the Creator of the Universe is your personal loving Father, what would that imply?
- Can everyone call God his or her Father? Why (or: why not)?
- Jesus adds: 'in heaven'. What could we learn from that?

Look again at verses 9b-10 **'Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done'**

- Jesus prioritises the Father's interest above our interest. He starts with 'your' (3x). And then continues with 'our' (3x). Why is this order there and what can we learn from it?
- The name, the kingdom and the will of our Father. What does Jesus mean with these?¹
- Jesus adds: on earth as it is in heaven. You could look at Psalm 103:20-21 for an explanation. What do you learn here?
- If you pray the first half of the Lord's prayer, what does this imply for our daily lives?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

When we pray, it shouldn't start with us. We have a praying priestly King in heaven. He taught us what and how to pray. When we have repented, we may join Him, as His people, in His prayers. And add our specific requests. What, in tonight's Bible study was new and helpful for you?

20.50 – 21.00 End the Life Group meeting with praying together. Pray the Lord's prayer together slowly and with great attention.

¹ For more insight (before or after your Life Group meeting) you might look at Isaiah 29:23 (concerning hallowed be your name), at Matthew 4:17 and Psalm 72 (your kingdom come) and at Psalm 40:8, Matthew 18:10-14 and Hebrews 13:20-21 (your will be done)