

PRAY WITH THE KING

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

2nd Meeting THEME: Pray with the Lord's prayer (II)

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

20.00 – 20.10 Start Has last times' meeting on prayer exercised influence on your prayers? If yes, how?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray. Thank God for His Word and for His Holy Spirit. 'His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness' (II Peter 1:3), including the Lord's prayer as a model for our prayers.

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

Today we look at the second half of the Lord's prayer. On earth we have a task as the King's people. But in heaven, through Jesus, we have a loving Father, who cares for us. We may approach Him with our requests for all our needs. He is a Father who provides, pardons and protects.

Look again at verses 9-10 'In heaven, through Jesus, we have a Father, with a name, a kingdom, a will'

- In a certain sense you could see the first half of the Lord's prayer as a request that God may bring a part of heaven on earth: the glory of his name, his kingdom, his good will. How does this first half of the Lord's prayer also have practical implications for our daily lives?

Look again at verse 11 Our Father provides

- How do you explain this prayer? And why pray this prayer when the food is already on your table?

Look again at verse 12 Our Father pardons (and look at verses 14-15)

- Can we be sure that God has forgiven us? Why?
- Everyone who has been forgiven will be transformed into the likeness of Him. Therefore, it is inevitable that in our hearts in a similar way a willingness to forgive is born. 'as we also have forgiven' is not so much the ground for God's forgiveness for us, but it indicates a similarity (as there is also a similarity in verse 10). Have you ever experienced that it was difficult to forgive? How did you deal with that?

Look again at verse 13 Our Father protects

- Adam and Eve were tempted in Eden by the serpent. This will certainly happen again. When we ask 'lead us not into temptation' we ask that we may be awake, to discern when God's word is twisted and when we are tempted to decide what is good and wrong by ourselves, rather than that we trust God's Word to shepherd us. How do you think is the church today 'led into temptation'?
- In heaven we have a Father, therefore on earth we may trust Him to give us bread. In heaven there is a kingdom, on earth we enter it and enjoy it through the forgiveness of sins. In heaven there is a God whose will is holy and good, on earth there is his evil enemy destroying and bringing evil, but our Father is able to protect us against his temptations and to save us so that we do not become his prey. The Lord delivers from evil: when have you experienced that?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

The Lord cares... Take some minutes of silence. Share: where are you challenged to trust your Father?

20.50 – 21.00 End the Life Group meeting with praying together. You might pray the Lord's prayer in several languages.