

PRAY WITH THE KING

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

8th Meeting **THEME: How to start your day**

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read Psalm 5

20.00 – 20.10 Start How do you usually start your day? Do you (want to) start with prayer?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray. Thank God for the book of Psalms, school for our prayers. Pray that God may grow you in prayer.

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage

Before you read: Remember the situation wherein David made some of his Psalms: when he fled from Absalom, his son. He had been the king in Jerusalem under God, the supreme King. But now in Jerusalem they make plans how to kill David and his men.

Read Psalm 5.

Read again verses 1-3: Hear the king's request to be admitted

Information: in the morning you could go to the mayor of your city, or to the king in the capital, if you had a case for judgement. In these verses we hear the king cry to God, the ultimate King and Judge, his God, knowing that he may ask and that God will hear.

- Is there something we can learn from these verses for our own prayers?

Read again verses 4-7: Hear the reason for the king's request: a) God's holy righteousness, b) God's covenant love

- In verses 4-5 we hear three times 'not'. In verses 5b-6 we hear three times what God does.
 - How do these things cohere with what happened at Jerusalem?
 - Do you see how these verses cohere with what we heard in previous Psalms?
- Someone says: this is typically Old Testament. This is not my kind of God. What would you say?
- Look at verse 7. What is the reason that David is confident that he may enter God's house?

Read again verse 8-12: Hear the king's request: a) for himself (the covenant-king), b) concerning the enemies (covenant breakers), c) concerning his people (covenant people).

- What can you learn from verse 8 for your personal prayer?
- In verses 9-10 we hear a so called 'imprecatory prayer'. Can such prayer still be meaningful? (if you prepare yourself beforehand for the bible study, you can Google this question to learn more about this theme, that come back several times in the book of Psalms.)
- What is the king looking forward to? What can we learn from this?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper: a Psalm for us

- Where and how could and should this Psalm influence our prayer-life? Take some time to think about this and share what you learnt.

20.50 – 21.00 End Read the Psalm again and let the Psalm inspire your prayers!