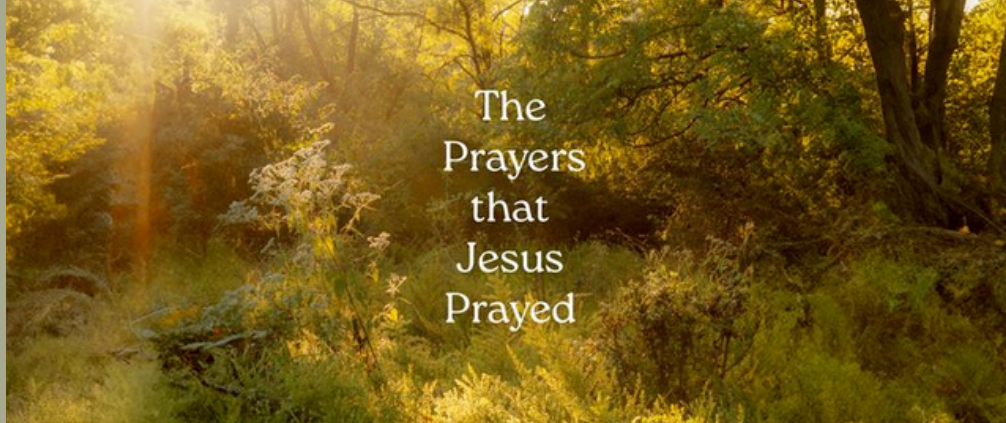


Lenten Small Group Study Guide

WEEK 2



The
Prayers
that
Jesus
Prayed

CONNECT (15 MIN)

Welcome

- Welcome to Week 2 of Lent Groups! Hopefully you built a good base of relationship last week with the members in your group. If it is the first time for anyone have them share about themselves. Otherwise, let's open up with a little icebreaker to get people talking. Ask the group, "In your opinion what is the most underrated movie of all time and why do you think that?"
- Before you spend time reviewing the sermon take a moment to read John 11:41-44, the passage on which this week's sermon was based. Ask someone in the group to read it aloud.

John 11:41-44

So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me." Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

CULTIVATE (5 MIN)

Each week we want to start our time by reviewing the sermon. There is a chance that not everyone was there to hear it. Spend time reviewing some of the main points and themes so that everyone is on the same page. You can also ask for impressions or anything that stood out from the sermon.

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GROUP VALUES: It's important that you agree on the values you want to have in your group, such as openness, authenticity, and confidentiality. Honoring these values together creates a safe and healthy group environment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35 MIN)

- Sometimes we miss how wild the Biblical stories are. Jesus is about to bring a dead man to life. This is not your everyday church gathering. Take a moment as a group to think of all the ways that Jesus could have done this miracle and chose not to. He could have wheeled the body out to the middle of the town square so everyone had a better view. He could've walked in and touched him. He could've just stayed where he was before the death and commanded him to breathe again from afar. He could have had an elaborate ritual so that it felt "holy". But he didn't. Why do you think Jesus chose to stand outside of the tomb and pray instead of any other method he could use?
- Jesus' prayer seems closer to a conversation than a formal prayer. Sort of like stepping into the middle of a discussion that was already ongoing. Jesus assumes God is already working and verbalizes it for the benefit of the people around him. He also thanks God in advance. What does thankfulness in his prayer communicate to the people standing around him about what Jesus thinks?
- Do you think expressing gratitude in prayer changes the way you pray? How so?
- Do you find it difficult to pray confidently? Why or why not? What do you think it says about how you view God?
- Jesus has confidence that God is always available and paying attention. It's a relationship unlike any other. If it's true that God is attentively with you at all times does it change the way you understand prayer?

CHANGE THE WORLD (5 MIN)

I Love My City is this Saturday, March 22. Your group can sign up today to join hundreds of others in volunteering around Indianapolis or a city near you. Whether you call St. Luke's home or you're just looking for a way to serve your community, we would love to have you join us for I Love My City! Service opportunities are available to accommodate a variety of ages and abilities. Make sure you don't miss out on the opportunity to make an impact with others in your Lent Group! <https://stlukesumc.com/city>

PRAYER REQUESTS

CLOSING PRAYER:

Learning to pray is an important part of our Christian journey. You or a participant can prepare something ahead of time or just pray what is on your heart. Think of it as having a conversation with someone. If you are still a little unsure, look at a Psalm to read for inspiration to write your own prayer.