

Devote yourselves to prayer

Col 4:2

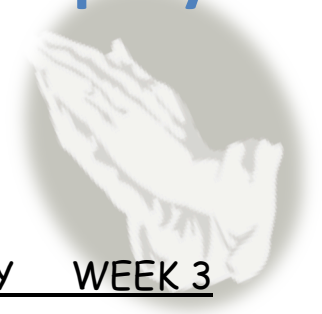
HOME GROUPS BIBLE STUDY WEEK 3

DRAWING CLOSER TO GOD

The longing of prayer—the essential purpose

Introduction

It would be good this week to start by creating an opportunity to be still. Perhaps have some suitably quiet, reflective music in the background and even candles to light the room. Be encouraged to relax and just be aware of God. Read into the stillness some suitable verses eg Is 6:1-8; Romans 8:15-17; Col 1:15-20 or Revelation 5. Let



the Holy Spirit guide you into a time of adoring praise and worship.
(If you have musicians or are confident singers you could spontaneously burst into song.)

Report back

How have you got on since week 2?

Do you feel that your worship and intimacy with God has deepened?

Are there any issues that need talking through?

Exploration time

Our focus this week is on praying in the Kingdom. (Matt.6:10)

*How important should the Kingdom of God be to us? See Matt 6:25-34 and Luke 9:57-62.

Isn't this a bit extreme—or is this our essential desire?

*What is the Kingdom of God? See Luke 17:21; Matt 4:17; Luke 11:20; I Cor 4:20; John 18:36&37; 1 Cor 6:9&10

* NB a kingdom has 1. A ruler; 2. A rule; 3. A realm

If then we are "praying in the Kingdom of God", what sort of things will we be praying for?

What should be our confidence in this praying? Cp Daniel 2:44,45 and 7:26 & 27

Do we have any difficulties in applying this confidence to our prayers?

*In "praying in the Kingdom", what areas of life can we include?

Eg your home (the care & concerns of people in it, relationships in it, your service for others outside the family circle); your work (what you do, how you do it, your priorities, the people you work with, the conditions under which you work) and so on.

Prayer together

Spend some time "praying in the Kingdom" by highlighting things that seem of particular concern to you

Pray by name for people whom you long to see come into the Kingdom of God.

Prayer suggestion

Put 3 names on a post-it note or mobile phone or whatever, of people you long to see become Christians. Place it somewhere you will see it often—eg fridge door or loo. Pray for them every time you see it.

Agree as a group to run a 'One at One for One' scheme—that is, pray for one person [at one pm?] for one minute each day. You could do this in 2 or 3s or as a whole group.