



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: THE PRAYER

The Prayer of Jesus (John 17:8-18)

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus models intercessory prayer for his disciples and us.
2. We are called to entrust those we love to God's care through prayer.
3. Our prayers should focus on keeping people in God's care, from apathy, from evil, and engaged in the world.
4. We are sent into the world as full-time ministers for God's kingdom.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. The pastor used the illustration of giving away his wedding ring. How does this relate to entrusting people to God through prayer? What makes this challenging?
3. How do you typically approach intercessory prayer? Has this sermon changed your perspective on it?
4. The sermon mentioned praying against apathy. Why do you think this is important? Have you experienced spiritual apathy in your own life or seen it in others?
5. How do you balance being "in the world but not of it"? What challenges do you face in living this out?
6. The pastor emphasized that we are all full-time ministers. How does this impact your view of your daily work and activities?

Practical Applications:

1. Choose one person to commit to praying for daily this week. Use the prayer points from the sermon (keep them in God's care, from apathy, from evil, engaged in the world).
2. Set a daily alarm as a reminder to pray for this person at the same time each day.
3. Write a note or tell the person you're praying for them this week.
4. Reflect on your own areas of apathy or disengagement from God's mission. Ask God to renew your passion and purpose.
5. Identify one way you can be more intentional about being "sent into the world" this week in your workplace, neighborhood, or daily activities.
6. In your next group meeting, share experiences of how intentional intercessory prayer impacted you or those you prayed for.

Closing Prayer:

Close your group time by praying for each other using the model from the sermon. Have each person pray for the person to their right, asking God to keep them in His care, from apathy, from evil, and engaged in His mission for the world.