

Small Group Resources: Sun 7th Jan 24

Theme & Passages	Prayer: Intercession Matthew 6:10; 2 Chronicles 7:13-14, Exodus 17:8-13, Genesis 18:22-33 Notes prepared by Caroline Oliveira
Preparation	In order to play the video, you will need a TV or computer screen that everyone can see and an internet connection.
Welcome (5 mins)	Share an experience of something that happened against your will, but turned out to be a blessing. (There probably isn't time for detailed accounts, just the headlines will do!)
Introduction (5 mins)	 Read today's key verse: "Your kingdom come" – Matthew 6:10 In this session, we'll explore the power and importance of praying on behalf of others. Begin the session by opening in prayer.
Video (20 mins)	 Watch this 20 minute video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuU2cZ5uCfA Summary points: When God's people intercede, God intervenes. There is power in our free will. 4 steps of intercession: get informed, get inspired, get indignant, get in synch.
Discussion (20 minutes)	 Discuss the following questions: What did you find most helpful or most challenging in the video? How do you feel about intercessory prayer – do you find it's something that comes naturally or is it more of a challenge? "Our free wills are powerful; they can release or restrict the purposes of God." How does this affect the way that we come to God in intercessory prayer? Have you ever had a feeling that you needed to pray for something or someone? What happened? "Prayer isn't about trying to get God to say amen to what I want; prayer is about me saying amen to God's will for my life" What would it look like for you to pray this week with this perspective?
Do it (15 mins)	As a group, spend some time interceding for your community, town or nation. Follow the 4 steps Pete outlined: 1. Get informed: learn the facts by checking the news, or updates about the people you're praying for. (Leader's note: You might like to find some facts, prayer points or updates ahead of this session). 2. Get inspired: What is God saying about this? Invite the Holy Spirit to speak into the situations you're interceding for. 3. Get indignant: Engage your own heart and allow yourself to think and feel honestly as you pray. 4. Get in sync: engage together. You might like to all pray out loud at once, or pray in a circle so that everyone has a chance to pray and be heard.

Material is taken from The Prayer Course, <u>www.prayercourse.org</u>